



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER CONDEMNS LABOR SCARE CAMPAIGN

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today denounced Labor's unfounded claims of job cuts in the South Western Sydney Local Health District.

"The fact is we now have more doctors, nurses and medical staff in the South Western Sydney Local Health District than there were under Labor.

"We have recruited more than 100 extra nurses and more medical staff in South Western Sydney since I became Minister.

"And we have increased the South Western Sydney Local Health District budget by 5.7 per cent to more than \$1.3 billion this year.

"South Western Sydney Local Health District is also home to some of our biggest hospital rebuilds including the \$139 million Campbelltown Hospital redevelopment.

"The NSW Government continues to invest in South Western Sydney and as Minister I am proud of all the work being done in this region for the benefit of patients and their families.

"It's deplorable that Labor continues to denigrate the care provided by our hard-working doctors, nurses and allied health staff by making them fear for their jobs.

"As has been explained since the 2012/13 budget was released in June last year, all portfolios across the NSW Government have been tasked to make labour expense cap savings to restore the state's finances and ensure we live within our means.

"Unlike Labor, I will not interfere in decisions on the ground in our hospitals. I trust our local experts - doctors, nurses and allied health staff as well as hospital administrators to make decisions based on their firsthand experience," Mrs Skinner said.

Mrs Skinner said the labour expense cap does not necessarily equate to job losses.

"The Local Health District has said they are committed to providing health care services that are both efficient and effective.

"South Western Sydney has advised savings will be made by introducing smarter ways of working for example reducing reliance on staff overtime and the use of agency staff."

Mrs Skinner said south-west Sydney has not forgotten Labor's terrible track record.

"John Robertson knows he has no credibility in south-west Sydney. There is a reason Labor why was voted out of the south-west – they delivered empty promises."