



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR WAGGA WAGGA MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

A major milestone in the first phase of the construction of the \$282 million Wagga Wagga Health Service Redevelopment was reached today with a 'topping out' ceremony taking place at the new mental health unit.

Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, said the ceremony celebrates the significant progress that has occurred on the construction of the first phase of the mental health building structure.

The redevelopment project is funded under the Health and Hospitals Fund Program with the Australian Government contributing \$55.1 million and the NSW Government providing \$215 million.

A further \$12 million has been allocated from the Australian Government under the COAG New Sub-Acute Beds Guarantee for 20 sub-acute mental health beds.

Mr Humphries said the new facility will provide specialist mental health inpatient facilities for people throughout the Riverina.

"This purpose built 50-bed mental health unit will provide people who need additional support with better access to services in their local community, closer to their families, friends, workplaces and schools," Mr Humphries said.

Member for Wagga Wagga, Daryl Maguire, said the new mental health unit will be completed in the second half of this year, with the acute hospital construction under way in late 2013.

"This impressive, state-of-the-art mental health facility is great news for the people of Wagga Wagga and the wider Riverina area," Mr Maguire said.

"It also demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to providing increased mental health services to people of NSW no matter where they live."

The new unit is part of a broader health service investment, which will provide the platform for new models of care focused on the needs of patients including:

- Increased mental health bed capacity including for acute overnight patient stays
- Expanded emergency department
- Increased renal capacity
- Expanded operating theatre suite including recovery capacity
- Cardiac catheterisation laboratory and angiography suite
- Women's and children's inpatient unit including additional birthing suites
- Expansion of the central sterilising services department
- Expanded medical imaging department and additional car parking