



# **Kevin Humphries MP**

## **Minister for Mental Health**

## **Minister for Healthy Lifestyles**

## **Minister for Western NSW**

---

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

---

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013

## **TICK OF APPROVAL FOR OUTGOING HEART FOUNDATION CEO**

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, Kevin Humphries, has congratulated outgoing CEO of the NSW Heart Foundation, Tony Thirlwell, for his leading role in the fight against heart disease.

Mr Humphries said Mr Thirlwell, who today steps down from his role as head of the organisation, has been a superb advocate for improved cardiovascular health by leading a number of initiatives to combat smoking, poor nutrition and inadequate physical activity.

“In NSW alone cardiovascular disease, including heart, stroke and blood vessel disease, causes over 16,000 deaths and puts more than 160,000 people in hospital every year,” Mr Humphries said.

“During almost a decade as the head of the NSW Heart Foundation Tony has led the way in the fight against heart disease through his involvement in initiatives such as the establishment of the Cardiovascular Research Network, the introduction of menu labelling, and the implementation of a state-wide ban of smoking in crowded outdoor areas.

“Under Tony’s guidance the Heart Foundation also became a valued partner to the NSW Government in a number of preventative health initiatives, including the establishment of the ‘Healthy Kids’ website and as the secretariat of the Premier’s Council for Active Living.”

Mr Humphries welcomed incoming CEO, Kerry Doyle, and said he looked forward to working with her to combat the high rates of cardiovascular disease in NSW.

“Ms Doyle brings a wealth of experience to the role, including as the Executive Director of the Office for Science and Medical Research during which time she was awarded an Order of Australia Public Service Medal for her services to science and medical research,” Mr Humphries said.