



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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PATIENTS RECEIVING FASTER TREATMENT IN NSW HOSPITALS

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today congratulated the state's public hospitals following news that patients are benefitting directly from improved emergency department and elective surgery performance.

Today's Bureau of Health Information's (BHI) hospital quarterly report (Oct-Dec 2012) showed that NSW hospitals are now treating more patients in quicker timeframes.

"Our state's hospitals are performing better than ever before when it comes to timely, quality patient care – this is wonderful news," Mrs Skinner said.

"In the October-December quarter last year we saw a marked increase in patient numbers in both emergency and elective surgery compared to the same period two years ago. In emergency, this was an increase of more than 34,000 patients.

"52,133 elective surgery procedures have been performed during this quarter, more than 2600 extra elective surgeries compared to the same period in 2010."

Mrs Skinner said 93 per cent of elective surgery procedures were performed on time this quarter – up on the same quarter in 2010 and 2011 and these results reflect we are performing above our 2012 targets for elective surgery in NSW in this quarter.

- Urgent elective surgeries – 96 per cent on time (three per cent up on 2010)
- Semi-urgent elective surgeries – 92 per cent on time (two per cent up on 2010)
- Non-urgent elective surgeries – 92 per cent (stable)

"Patients are being seen quicker in our emergency departments and we are performing better in emergency triage categories compared to the same period in 2010."

- Non-urgent – median time to start treatment is 27 minutes (32 minutes in same period in 2010)
- Semi-urgent – median time to start treatment is 29 minutes (34 minutes in same period in 2010)
- Urgent – median time to start treatment is 21 minutes (23 minutes in same period in 2010)
- Emergency – median time to start treatment is eight minutes (stable)

“To top it all off, we are closer to meeting our National Emergency Access Target (NEAT). 64 per cent of patients are now leaving the emergency department within four hours, which is an increase from 59 per cent on the same period in 2010. This is a record figure – our best result ever.

“I have no doubt that the significant investment the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is making in our state’s hospitals is seeing a real difference in hospital performance, patient experiences and staff morale.

“These achievements are a credit to our hard-working doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and hospital staff who continue to develop new ways to deliver best care for patients.

“These figures show their dedication, commitment and innovation is paying off and this is a great opportunity to congratulate our state’s hospitals on reaching these milestones.

“While I’m sure improvements will continue to be made, it’s rewarding to see hospital staff taking pride in their work and celebrating the progress they are making for the benefit of patients, their families and carers in NSW.”