



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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LABOR MOCKS HARD WORK OF NSW HOSPITALS

Labor's Health spokesman Dr Andrew McDonald has today talked down the efforts of the state's doctors, nurses and hospital staff despite a new report showing their hard work is delivering benefits for patients.

"Andrew McDonald would rather talk fiction than focus on the fact that NSW hospitals are performing better than when Labor was in power," Mrs Skinner said.

"Today's report by the independent Bureau of Health Information has revealed our state's hospitals are performing better than ever before when it comes to timely, quality patient care.

"Rather than celebrating the hard work of our doctors, nurses and hospital staff, Dr McDonald has scoffed at their achievements."

"This is not a cause for congratulations or rejoicing as the Minister would want. These figures show that people are waiting too long." – Andrew McDonald (14 March 2013)

"...Patients in New South Wales wait longer now for surgery and emergency care than they did under the previous Government or at any time in the history of this State." – Andrew McDonald (12 March 2013)

"Despite claims by Dr McDonald that our hospitals are third-world and patients are waiting too long to be treated, it's clear from today's report that real improvements are being made since he and his Labor colleagues were in government."

Elective surgery category	Under Labor (Oct – Dec 2010)	Under Liberals & Nationals (Oct – Dec 2012)
Urgent	93 per cent on time	96 per cent on time
Semi-urgent	90 per cent on time	92 per cent on time
Non-urgent	92 per cent on time	92 per cent on time

Emergency department triage	Under Labor (Oct – Dec 2010)	Under Liberals & Nationals (Oct – Dec 2012)
Non-urgent	Median time to start treatment - 32 minutes	Median time to start treatment – 27 minutes
Semi-urgent	Median time to start treatment – 34 minutes	Median time to start treatment – 29 minutes
Urgent	Median time to start treatment – 23 minutes	Median time to start treatment – 21 minutes
Emergency	Median time to start treatment – 8 minutes	Median time to start treatment – 8 minutes

"We know our hospitals and medical staff are under more pressure than ever because of the O'Farrell Government's \$3 billion funding cut to the health system." – Andrew McDonald (13 March 2013)

"Dr McDonald continues to spin his fiction about a \$3 billion cut to the NSW health system which he knows this is completely untrue - presumably he has read the NSW Health budget brought down last June," Mrs Skinner said. **(2012/13 Health Budget below – BP3, pg 6-1)**

"In 2012/13, the NSW Health re-current expenses budget increased by 5.2 per cent to \$17.3 billion with Local Health Districts across the state receiving increased budgets to fund extra patient admissions, surgeries and additional hospital staff.

"We're also spending an additional \$1 billion on hospital re-builds across the state."

6. Health Cluster

Agency	Expenses			Capital Expenditure		
	2011-12 Budget \$m	2012-13 Budget \$m	Var. %	2011-12 Budget \$m	2012-13 Budget \$m	Var. %
Ministry of Health						
Service Group						
Population Health Services	554.6	405.0	(27.0)
Primary and Community Based Services	1,186.9	1,227.6	3.4	12.3	63.6	417.3
Aboriginal Health Services	97.3	100.2	3.0
Outpatient Services	1,665.3	1,717.3	3.1	117.5	186.3	58.5
Emergency Services	1,767.3	1,836.2	3.9	63.1	210.3	233.2
Inpatient Hospital Services	7,728.2	8,239.1	6.6	493.6	457.0	(7.4)
Mental Health Services	1,340.0	1,412.2	5.4	113.8	48.3	(57.5)
Rehabilitation and Extended Care Services	1,265.4	1,324.0	4.6	103.2	31.3	(69.6)
Teaching and Research	805.6	839.4	4.2	17.4	7.6	(56.6)
Cluster Grant Funding	10.2	176.8	N/A
Total	16,420.9	17,277.7	5.2	921.0	1,004.5	9.1

Just today, the AMA (NSW) President said: "Improved elective surgery and emergency department performance shows public hospital doctors, nurses and other hospital staff are doing an outstanding job despite significant increases in demand."

"I welcome today's report by the Bureau of Health Information and have no shame in celebrating the good work of our doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, paramedics and hospital staff," Mrs Skinner said.