



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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CENTRAL COAST CANCER CENTRE OPENS FOR PATIENTS

The Central Coast Cancer Centre will open to patients from Monday and provide enhanced cancer services across the region, Health Minister Jillian Skinner said today, during an official opening at Gosford Hospital.

Mrs Skinner was joined by Central Coast Minister Chris Hartcher, Chris Holstein (Gosford), Darren Webber (Wyong), Chris Spence (The Entrance) and the Federal Member for Robertson, Deborah O'Neill.

The \$38.6 million project was made possible by a \$28.6 million contribution from the Australian Government's Health and Hospitals Fund and \$10 million from the NSW Government.

"The Central Coast Cancer Centre will provide better access to treatment for cancer patients throughout the Central Coast, which will address the projected increase in demand across the region," Mrs Skinner said.

"The service will provide high quality and efficient cancer treatment such as radiotherapy services featuring a state of the art CT scanner and two linear accelerators providing pinpoint accuracy during treatment.

"The two linear accelerators will have the capacity to treat close to 800 patients each year."

Mr Hartcher said, "The new centre will include an area for professional development to educate the local workforce including teaching, training and research – a very important feature in an age of rapidly advancing technology, new drugs and improved treatment methods."

Mr Holstein said, "The facility will also feature an information centre for patients, carers and staff, provided through a partnership arrangement with the Cancer Council.

"In addition, this project has included improvements at Gosford and Wyong Hospitals in the day units where chemotherapy treatment is provided. Gosford Hospital will gain three chemotherapy chairs and Wyong Hospital will gain two."

Mr Webber said, "Improvements at Wyong Hospital will include more consulting rooms, expansion of the nurse's station and provision of a multi-disciplinary education room."

Mr Spence said, “The new centre will make a real difference to Central Coast patients and families who have been affected by cancer.”

The Central Coast Cancer Centre includes:

- Three radiotherapy bunkers;
- Two linear accelerators;
- Radiotherapy planning & support areas;
- Expansion of chemotherapy treatment spaces from 10 to 15;
- Patient consultation areas;
- Waiting and reception spaces;
- Multi-disciplinary consulting rooms;
- Cancer patient information and support services for patients, carers and clinicians;
- Refurbishment of existing space to accommodate multi-disciplinary consulting accommodation at Wyong including waiting and reception functions; and
- A range of associated treatment and planning equipment including one computed tomography (CT) scanner.