



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 26 March 2013

LABOR LIES ON HEALTH FUNDING

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today accused the Opposition Leader of deliberately misleading the community over allegations of funding cuts to Western Sydney hospitals.

“It’s disappointing that Labor is causing alarm among the community and devaluing the hard work being done by hospital staff across NSW.

“The Western Sydney Local Health District Budget is a record \$1.4 billion this year, an increase of \$55 million,” Mrs Skinner said.

“To claim that the budget at individual Western Sydney hospitals has been cut is simply wrong.

“Westmead Hospital’s budget this year is \$414 million - up \$20 million.

“Blacktown Mt Druitt Hospital’s budget this year is \$205 million - up \$18 million.

“Auburn Hospital’s budget this year is \$52 million - up \$3 million.

“We are investing \$324 million to redevelop Blacktown Mt Druitt Hospital – the largest health infrastructure project in NSW.

“At Westmead Hospital we’re spending almost \$5 million to redesign the emergency department, and we’re already seeing an improvement to waiting times.

“Urgent patients presenting to Westmead’s ED are now waiting 14 minutes less than they did under Labor, according to the latest independent Bureau of Health Information report.

“Across the Western Sydney Local Health District we have employed 128 more nurses since March 2011.

“On top of this, there are over 65 extra medical staff working through Western Sydney hospitals.

“While Labor took Western Sydney for granted and failed to fund increases in demand, we’re investing more money than ever before in the region’s health facilities.

“There is a reason that two years ago today the people of Western Sydney voted Labor out of office – they did not deliver for the region.

"We're investing more in health with a record \$18.3 billion budget this year and we've doubled the amount of money being spent on health infrastructure projects to \$4.7 billion."