



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

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MEDIA RELEASE

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PLANS FOR PARKES AND FORBES HOSPITALS TAKING SHAPE

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Dubbo MP Troy Grant today said workshops for Parkes and Forbes hospitals have mapped out a clear future direction for their services.

Mrs Skinner said the workshops were held with key stakeholders from both hospitals as well as health and community representatives at Parkes and Forbes last week.

“Hospitals are at the very heart of our communities and these workshops are vital to ensure interested community members have a say in the future of their health services,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Clear consensus was reached at the workshops not only on where health services will be delivered at Parkes and Forbes but how patients should be cared for in these facilities.

“It’s wonderful to see future pathways being positioned for these projects, which will have great benefits for the local community,” Mrs Skinner said.

Key service delivery outcomes from the workshops included:

- Ensuring good patient experiences;
- Improving health outcomes for the indigenous community;
- Improving management of chronic care patients;
- Strengthening workforce capabilities and flexibility;
- Creating better service integration between health and non-health services;
- Adopting the latest in communication technology

Mr Grant said the Forbes workshop attendees agreed on a concept design for refurbishment of the hospital on its current site.

“The Parkes workshop also selected a concept design and decided that moving the hospital to an alternative site was the best way to meet the health service priorities for the community,” Mr Grant said.

In the lead up to the workshops, the Lachlan Health Service project team carried out a preliminary review on several site alternatives for Parkes and identified a shortlist of sites. Further investigation, testing and analysis will need to be completed on the shortlisted sites to confirm the location by mid-2013.

“The Lachlan Health Service Project team will use the information gathered at the workshops this week to take the next step from the planning to the design stage.

“This includes creating a robust business case for the project during the coming months.

“Key stakeholders from Parkes and Forbes will be consulted throughout the planning and development process to ensure the ongoing success of the project,” Mr Grant said.