



# **Kevin Humphries MP**

## **Minister for Mental Health**

## **Minister for Healthy Lifestyles**

## **Minister for Western NSW**

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# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **NEW ERA OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN SOUTH-WESTERN SYDNEY**

Mental health services in south western Sydney will be significantly enhanced following the opening today of the \$12.8 million subacute mental health unit at Liverpool Hospital by the NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries.

Mr Humphries said the 20 bed unit, funded by the Australian Government under the COAG new Subacute Beds Program, will form an integral part of the South Western Sydney Local Health District's mental health services.

"This impressive state-of-the-art mental health sub-acute facility will allow more people with mental health conditions and who have been discharged from hospital to undergo further rehabilitation and treatment services in a relaxed and comfortable setting," Mr Humphries said.

"Importantly, this unit will ensure people receive this additional support in their local community, close to their families, friends, workplaces and schools.

"It will provide care for patients who have previously been treated in an acute ward and are now transferring into a subacute unit as part of their ongoing recovery and rehabilitation.

"The unit will also provide support to patients living in the community who are struggling to cope, but don't require the intensive services of an acute unit.

"An important goal of the mental health rehabilitation services that it will offer is to help patients learn how to regain a sense of control by managing and minimising the impact of mental illness on their life.

"A great emphasis will be placed on early intervention to help people with their day-to-day living skills, regain their confidence and successfully return to their homes and communities."

The unit features a number of therapeutic patient areas including a gym, quiet rooms and an activity room with arts and crafts.

Member for Menai, Melanie Gibbons, said the facility will usher in a new standard of mental health care for people living in south western Sydney.

"This announcement demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to providing increased mental health services to the people of NSW no matter where they live," Ms Gibbons said.