



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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PROGRESS AT PORT MACQUARIE HOSPITAL

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today continued her Mid North Coast hospitals tour with a visit to Port Macquarie Base Hospital.

Mrs Skinner was joined by Port Macquarie MP Leslie Williams to inspect progress on the \$110 million redevelopment while also visiting the hospital's new pain management clinic.

"Just over a year ago, the first sod was turned on this multi-million dollar redevelopment and today we can see exactly what this investment is delivering," Mrs Skinner said.

"It's exciting to be able to see actual progress being made on this project, which will deliver real benefits for patients and their families on the Mid North Coast."

"Already we can see that the new car park has been completed and construction is well underway with the ground floor structural slab and columns for the first floor now complete.

"This hospital redevelopment really is a testament to all that can be achieved when State and Federal Governments put politics aside and work together."

Mrs Williams said the next steps in the construction process will include building the upper levels of the new clinical building, which will be four storeys high.

"This hospital expansion is first class and will provide our community with an expanded range of quality health services, some of which we have never been able to access locally.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to ensuring patients receive quality care close to home and the redevelopment of our hospital will see locals being treated in their community rather than travelling out of the region.

"It's not just about bricks and mortar – this redevelopment is boosting the morale of hospital staff and the wider community," Mrs Williams said.

The \$110 million project is jointly funded by the NSW and Federal Governments. The NSW Government has contributed \$14 million and \$96 million has been provided by the Federal Government through the Health and Hospitals Fund.

The redevelopment will provide a new and expanded emergency department; the establishment of an emergency medical unit; new and expanded intensive care and high dependency unit; new operating theatres with more surgical beds; new cardiac catheterisation laboratory; new acute hospital beds and a new paediatric inpatient unit.

Construction is expected to be completed by mid-2014.

While visiting the hospital, Mrs Skinner toured Port Macquarie's new pain management clinic.

"The NSW Government's NSW Pain Management Plan 2012-2016 provided an additional \$1.7 million in annual funds to establish new pain management services in regional areas, including Port Macquarie.

"As Health Minister, I made a personal commitment to address the long-neglected impact of chronic pain for patients across the state so it is wonderful to see the Port Macquarie pain clinic up and running.

"I have no doubt it is providing real support and care for those in the community suffering with chronic pain."