



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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HOSPITAL STAFF TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR IMPROVED NSW HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today said patients in NSW are benefitting from big improvements in the state's public hospitals with waiting times decreasing and a record number receiving elective surgery on time.

Mrs Skinner said the Bureau of Health Information's Hospital Quarterly: Performance of NSW public hospitals report for January-March 2013 clearly demonstrated big improvements in the state's elective surgery and emergency department wait times.

"These great results are a testament to the hard work of our state's doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and hospital staff," Mrs Skinner said.

"The BHI report clearly shows that our public hospitals are performing better than ever while treating more patients.

| Elective surgery category | Under Labor (Jan – Mar 2011) | Under Liberals & Nationals (Jan - Mar 2013) |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Urgent | 92 per cent on time | 99 per cent on time |
| Semi-urgent | 87 per cent on time | 94 per cent on time |
| Non-urgent | 92 per cent on time | 94 per cent on time |

| Emergency department triage | Under Labor (Jan – Mar 2011) | Under Liberals & Nationals (Jan - Mar 2013) |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Non-urgent | Median time to start treatment - 31 minutes | Median time to start treatment – 27 minutes |
| Semi-urgent | Median time to start treatment – 34 minutes | Median time to start treatment – 28 minutes |
| Urgent | Median time to start treatment – 24 minutes | Median time to start treatment – 21 minutes |
| Emergency | Median time to start treatment – 8 minutes | Median time to start treatment – 8 minutes |

"Hospitals including Blacktown, Fairfield, Hornsby, Bega and Manning are working hard and it is paying off - patients are being seen much quicker in their emergency departments than at the same time last year," Mrs Skinner said.

"Calvary Mater, Shoalhaven, Campbelltown, Auburn, Tamworth, Port Macquarie, Orange and Tweed have dramatically improved their elective surgery on-time

“While we are yet to meet our NEAT National Emergency Access Target (NEAT) target, we are improving and I am confident our hospitals will reach the 71 per cent overall benchmark by the end of the year.

“In 2012/13, the NSW Government increased the health budget by 5.2 per cent to a record \$17.3 billion to provide care for the anticipated 50,000 extra emergency patients, 30,000 extra overnight hospital patients and 2,000 extra elective surgeries across the state.

“In addition to this recurrent funding, we committed \$1.1 billion to rebuild our state’s hospitals, which has gone a long way to improving bricks and mortar as well as staff morale and patient experiences.

“It’s clear that under the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government, patient care in this state is improving.

“Today marks a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and thank our dedicated hospital staff for their extraordinary commitment to caring for NSW patients,” Mrs Skinner said.