



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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LABOR MISLEADS ON COAG REPORT

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today slammed Opposition Leader John Robertson and Shadow Health spokesman Dr Andrew McDonald for talking down the achievements of NSW hospitals.

Mrs Skinner said the release of the COAG *National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services: Performance Report for 2012* highlighted that NSW hospitals were meeting the majority of their benchmarks.

“There were vast improvements in our public hospital performance last year, with most of our NEST (National Elective Surgery Target) benchmarks being met,” Mrs Skinner said.

“As a result of our NEST performance, NSW will be eligible for the reward funding from the Commonwealth for elective surgery.”

Mrs Skinner said the latest quarterly report by the independent Bureau of Health Information demonstrated more recent record improvements in the performance of NSW public hospitals.

“The COAG report is out of date. The Bureau of Health Information has recently released data for January-March showing our state’s hospitals are performing better than ever before when it comes to timely, quality patient care.

“Our NEAT (National Emergency Access Target) has risen since the COAG reporting period from 61.1 per cent to 65 per cent this year and it continues to increase.

“The people of NSW have not forgotten how Labor neglected our health system for 16 years.

“Rather than acknowledge how well NSW hospitals are performing under the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government, Labor continues to diminish the improvements and achievements of our hospital staff.

“Since the election, I have committed myself to rebuilding the NSW health system, which was battered for more than a decade under Labor.

“Rebuilding our health system and the morale of our staff will take time but independent reports such as those put together by COAG and the BHI show we are going forward – not backwards,” Mrs Skinner said.

“John Robertson and Andrew McDonald know there is no \$3 billion cut to the NSW health system – they just can’t admit that in 2012/13, the NSW Government boosted the health budget by 5.2 per cent to a record \$17.3 billion,” Mrs Skinner said.

Statistics from the independent Bureau of Health Information:

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

Additional detail on NSW performance:

COAG report on NEST (National Elective Surgery Target):

In comparison to other jurisdictions:

- NSW achieved seven targets and partially achieved an eighth;
- The ACT was the only jurisdiction to achieve all nine targets;
- Victoria and Northern Territory achieved six targets and partially a seventh;
- Western Australia achieved four targets and partially achieved three;
- South Australia achieved three targets and partially four;
- Tasmania achieved one target and partially four; and
- Queensland achieved one target and partially three.