



**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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Thursday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**NEW MILESTONE REACHED ON MAITLAND  
MENTAL HEALTH UNIT**

The \$2 million upgrade to Maitland Hospital's mental health unit is one step closer to completion following the opening today of another key stage of the project.

NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, and Member for Maitland, Robyn Parker, today toured the unit to inspect the completed first and second stages of the project, which includes a carer's room and a recreational courtyard.

"Prior to the last election we made a promise to provide a much-needed upgrade for mental health facilities at Maitland Hospital, and we are delivering on that promise," Mr Humphries said.

"The NSW Government has committed \$2 million for this project through the Hunter Infrastructure Investment Fund, through which we are improving facilities for mental health consumers, their families and carers, and staff.

"I am very pleased to see that this important project, which will make such a difference to so many people in the Maitland region with a mental illness, is progressing well and I look forward to visiting with Robyn again when the final stage is complete."

Ms Parker congratulated construction company Hansen Yuncken and staff on meeting the challenge of carrying out extensive capital works while ensuring the facility remained operational and with minimal disruption to patients and staff.

"This refurbishment is a huge win for the Maitland community as it will provide improved facilities for patients, families and carers and enable staff to work more effectively to deliver care to patients to best aid their recovery," Ms Parker said.

"It is extremely pleasing to see the unit is on track to open at the end of the year."

Work recently began on Stage 3, with just one stage remaining. Once completed, the unit will house:

- A new carer's room providing a more comfortable and private space for relatives, friends and carers to meet and talk with their loved ones;
- A new and improved main entry into the unit;
- A new reception and waiting area;
- A reconfigured staff station;
- A new and more secure staff entry; and,
- A new meeting and education room for use by staff and patients.