



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE LIES FROM LABOR ABOUT NSW HEALTH BUDGET

Patients and hospital staff across the state have seen more investment and commitment to health by the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government than at any time under Labor, Health Minister Jillian Skinner said today.

“Labor continues to lie about the improvements in our health system because they won’t take responsibility for the 16 years of neglect they imposed on patients and hospital staff,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The fact is the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government is investing in our hospitals and our staff to ensure patients across the state have access to quality, timely care.

“Since the election we have been committed to rebuilding, reforming and recruiting for our health system and already we are seeing this commitment deliver real benefits for patients.

“The NSW health system is going forward not backward under this Government.”

LABOR’S LIES:

1. ***“The fact is the Premier and Health Minister are cutting \$3 billion from the health system which is hurting patient care.*”**

FACT: The 2013/14 NSW health budget has **increased** by 5.2 per cent to a record **\$17.9 billion** – a record spend. There is no \$3 billion cut to the health system.

2. ***“NSW also has the longest wait for elective surgery in mainland Australia.”***

FACT: NSW is performing **better** than any other state when it comes to on-time elective surgeries and patients are waiting **less** than they were under Labor.

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

(Source: Bureau of Health Information)

3. ***“The budget papers reveal that the O’Farrell Government underspent on the health budget by a staggering \$290 million last year.”***

FACT: There was **no underspend** in the 2012/13 NSW health budget. The \$290m difference between the 2012/13 Budget and the revised 2012/13 Budget is explained by

4. *“There is also no increase on previously promised hospital infrastructure funding.”*

FACT: \$1.2 billion is being invested in hospital rebuild projects across NSW this year - an **increase** of 10 per cent on last year’s capital works spend.

“As Minister, I’m proud to be able to deliver record funding to support the dedicated doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, paramedics and hospital staff who do so much for patients and their families each and every day,” Mrs Skinner said.

“It is shameful that Labor is scaremongering patients and staff in our public hospitals at a time when there is record government investment in health services,” Mrs Skinner said.