



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 24 July 2013

QUALITY PATIENT CARE CONTINUES AS NURSES STRIKE

Health Minister Jillian Skinner has thanked the thousands of nurses and midwives who worked through today's strike action to ensure patient care was not compromised.

Mrs Skinner said the relatively low numbers of nurses and midwives who took strike action meant patient care was maintained at high standards in the state's hospitals.

"I am advised about 1770 nurses and midwives who were rostered on for duty today participated in the strike action," Mrs Skinner said.

"The vast majority of our record of over 47,500 nurses and midwives who were rostered on to work today did work - and I thank them for doing so.

"This strike action has been disappointing but our hospitals coped incredibly well because of our record nursing workforce."

Mrs Skinner said the NSW Government had recruited over 4,000 extra nurses and midwives since the 2011 election.

"NSW has never had so many nurses and midwives, a fact NSW Nurses and Midwives Association general secretary Brett Holmes conceded on radio this morning when he said **'There's no doubt that we have seen an improvement in the numbers of nurses in our public health system'**," Mrs Skinner said.

"I am very proud the NSW Government is delivering on its commitment to substantially boost frontline nursing across NSW.

"The NSW Government is also committed to ensuring wages for nurses and midwives keep pace with other public sector employees. It has applied to the Industrial Relations Commission to ensure that nurses and midwives receive a 2.5 per cent wage increase (including a compulsory superannuation increase). This will be backdated to 1 July 2013."

Mrs Skinner said nurses and midwives have her full support as they deliver quality, timely care for patients in hospitals and health services across the state.

"I deeply respect what these skilled, dedicated professionals do for their communities."