



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday, 23 August 2013

#### **RECORD IMPROVEMENTS IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today praised the state's public hospitals for their continued improvements in emergency department performance.

Mrs Skinner said patients entering emergency departments in NSW are being treated faster than ever before.

"Emergency departments across the state are continuing their vast improvements in patient treatment times, which benefits not just front of house but the whole of the hospital," Mrs Skinner said.

"From January to June this year, 65.6 per cent of patients are leaving our emergency departments within four hours – this is a significant improvement on the 59.3 per cent in the same period last year.

"As a result of this hard work, NSW is closer than ever to meeting our NEAT (National Emergency Access Target) benchmark and we continue to improve. I am confident that we will meet our state target of 71 per cent by the end of this year."

Mrs Skinner said hospitals including Tweed, Fairfield, Manly, Griffith, Bathurst, Ryde, Auburn, Sydney and Sydney Children's have all surpassed the 71 per cent NEAT benchmark in the period January to June this year.

Mrs Skinner said the NSW Whole of Hospital Program is having a profound effect on emergency department performance at our busiest emergency departments.

"The NSW Government commenced the Whole of Hospital Program at 20 hospitals in February to improve access to quality, safe, swift and affordable health care for patients. A result of this program will be improved NEAT performance.

"The most notable improvements include Hornsby Hospital, which has increased its NEAT from 49 to 64.1 per cent (a 15.1 per cent increase), and Nepean Hospital, which has jumped from 46.3 to 60.1 per cent (a 13.8 per cent increase). (Comparing Jan-June 2012 to Jan-June 2013)

"These great results are testament to the hard work of these hospitals' doctors, nurses and staff who are making innovative decisions on the ground to improve their emergency treatment times," Mrs Skinner said.

“As I visit hospitals across the state, I continue to be amazed at the local initiatives being implemented to ensure patients are receiving best care.

“These initiatives, which have been made possible through the NSW Government’s devolution of the health system, are changing the way health care is delivered in our emergency departments and wider wards.”

Mrs Skinner said the NSW Government is recruiting, rebuilding and reforming to enhance the state’s health system after more than a decade of Labor neglect.

“In 2013/14, the NSW Government has increased the health budget by 5.2 per cent, which includes \$220 million for increased activity, providing for an extra 69,000 emergency department attendances.

“In addition to this recurrent funding, we committed \$1.2 billion to rebuild our state’s hospitals, which while enhancing our bricks and mortar is doing much to improve patient experiences and staff morale.”