



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday, 3 October 2013

#### **SCHEMATIC DESIGNS LAUNCHED FOR LACHLAN HEALTH SERVICE PROJECT**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Dubbo MP Troy Grant today unveiled the schematic designs for Parkes and Forbes Hospitals as part of the Lachlan Health Service (LHS) Project.

The schematic designs are the result of a thorough planning, investigation and consultation process between the LHS Project team and key Parkes and Forbes health and community representatives.

Mrs Skinner celebrated this significant and exciting project milestone with community members and hospital staff at both hospitals, and included a visit to the new Parkes Hospital site.

“These hospitals are at the very heart of their communities and it has been essential that we get the planning right for patients and staff,” Mrs Skinner said.

“When completed, the Lachlan Health Service Project will provide enhanced health services and an improved partnership between the Parkes and Forbes hospitals to ensure better health outcomes for their communities, now and into the future.

“These schematic designs give the community an opportunity to see firsthand how the NSW Government investment in these hospitals will transform not just the bricks and mortar but the way health care is delivered.”

The visit to Parkes and Forbes forms part of Mrs Skinner’s two-day visit to hospitals and health facilities in Western NSW.

Mr Grant said the Lachlan Health Service project is on track to begin construction in 2014.

“I’m incredibly proud of the progress being made on this project and it is wonderful to have the Minister here today to meet with staff to hear about the steps being taken to improve patient care,” Mr Grant said.

“The Lachlan Health Service Project is one that has had vast input from both hospitals’ staff and the community.

“I encourage everyone involved as well as local residents to come and take a peek at

The redevelopment of the Parkes Hospital will include:

- Emergency Department;
- Inpatient ward and birthing suites for maternity services;
- Ambulatory Care treatment area;
- Chemotherapy service
- Medical Imaging unit;
- Hospital dental facilities;
- Operating suites and day-only surgical services; and
- Associated support and infrastructure services.

The refurbishment of the Forbes Hospital will include:

- New Emergency Department and patient drop-off;
- Larger medical imaging unit;
- Improved Ambulatory Day treatment area;
- New inpatient ward and birthing suites for maternity services;
- Increased renal dialysis unit from six to eight chairs;
- New dental facilities; and
- Associated support and infrastructure services.

The NSW Government has committed \$42.5 million towards the Parkes Hospital redevelopment and \$25 million for the refurbishment of the Forbes Hospital.