



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday, 3 October 2013

#### **PARKES HOSPITAL CHEMOTHERAPY UNIT NOW COMPLETE**

Chemotherapy patients at Parkes Hospital now have a more comfortable and accessible environment to receive their treatment with the recent completion of a major refurbishment to the chemotherapy unit, Health Minister Jillian Skinner announced today.

Mrs Skinner and Dubbo MP Troy Grant visited the newly refurbished unit during their visit to Parkes Hospital today.

Mrs Skinner said a NSW Government investment of \$110,000 made the refurbishment possible, with the construction completed in about 10 weeks.

“The local community and the Lachlan Health Council worked hard to secure funding for this upgrade and it is wonderful to be here today to see its completion,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The NSW Government is committed to ensuring rural and regional patients have access to quality care closer to home, which is particularly important for cancer patients and their loved ones.”

Mr Grant said the refurbishment has really improved the space for patients and staff.

“Chemotherapy chairs in the unit have been doubled, from two to four, so more patients will be able to be seen with support from local nurses,” Mr Grant said.

“I’m pleased to see Parkes Hospital supporting patients and their families when they need it most particularly at a challenging period in their lives.”

Manager of Lachlan Community and Allied Health Services Monica Murray expressed her gratitude to the Can Assist Parkes branch and Northparkes Mines for their generous donations towards the purchase of two new electric chemotherapy chairs.

“Each of the spaces has a call bell and nurse emergency system so that patients can get quick attention when needed.

“Overall it’s a more pleasant and efficient area which offers more privacy for clients, in particular in the waiting and treatment area,” Ms Murray said.

There are currently six to ten patients using the clinic once a week for various therapies. The unit is staffed by a Lachlan Health Service nurse who holds a Certificate in Oncology and a visiting oncology specialist nurse from Orange.

“We thank everyone for their support and assistance in this project and look forward to providing an improved service to our chemotherapy patients,” Ms Murray said.