



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW SPECIALIST HAND CLINIC BENEFITS LOCAL PATIENTS

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today visited Fairfield Hospital's new purpose-built Hand Therapy Centre - part of a new Specialist Hand Service for patients in south west Sydney.

Mrs Skinner, who was joined by Smithfield MP Andrew Rohan and Granville MP Tony Issa, said the Hand Therapy Centre forms part of a new \$2.9 million service available for patients who have experienced trauma and injury to their hands.

"This new service will become a centre for excellence for hand surgery and greatly reduce waiting times for local patients," Mrs Skinner said.

"No matter what your age or occupation our fingers and hands play a vital role in our lives. It's not until we lose these common functions that we realise just how important they are."

Mr Rohan said the Hand Therapy Centre will provide minor hand surgery procedures and specialist services.

"Local patients now have access to specialised physiotherapy and occupational therapy services to help with their hand rehabilitation," Mr Rohan said.

"And they will be assisted on their clinical journey by a dedicated specialist through from referral, through to clinic appointment, assessment, surgery, rehabilitation and discharge."

Mr Issa said the centre provides specialised physiotherapy and occupational therapy services to help hand rehabilitation.

"This service is a wonderful addition to the great support provided by hospitals across the region," Mr Issa said.

"I have no doubt patients will benefit from this tailored patient-centric approach to care, which will support them on their way to recovery."

The new South Western Sydney Specialist Hand Service has been achieved by relocating hand services previously provided at Liverpool Hospital and combining them with existing Fairfield Hospital Services.

The enhanced specialty hand services available for patients include:

- Inpatient services for patients experiencing trauma and injury to their hands;
- Elective and emergency hand surgery with nine dedicated theatre lists per week;
- Specialised physiotherapy and occupational therapy services through the integrated Hand Therapy Centre;
- Outpatient hand clinics incorporating pre and post-operative clinical assessment and management of hand injuries, as well as hand therapy support.

Since the centre opened on Monday 30 September, 148 hand surgeries have been performed - 26 elective and 122 emergency cases.