



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM SHINES LIGHT ON SMARTER DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE IN NSW

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today officially opened the second annual NSW Health Innovation Symposium, shining a light on the ways in which innovation is making a positive difference to patient care across the state.

About 1,000 clinicians, researchers and NSW Health staff, as well as health consumers and other representatives from the health sector, gathered at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre to celebrate new models of care.

Premier Barry O'Farrell addressed the symposium and Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Healthy Lifestyles Kevin Humphries delivered the closing address.

The day-long symposium featured 60 live and poster presentations and break-out sessions on innovative health programs and services.

Some of the innovators showcased during the symposium are among the 38 finalists for tonight's NSW Health Innovation Awards.

"As Minister for Medical Research, as well as Minister for Health, I believe in the power of ideas," Mrs Skinner said.

"Today's NSW Health Innovation Symposium encourages everyone involved in the delivery of health care in NSW to embrace new models of care and create a culture of innovation.

"The symposium celebrates wonderful ideas, which provide much better health care while using resources more efficiently.

"I've seen many of these initiatives as I do the rounds of hospitals and other health services across the state.

"I am pleased we are able to showcase them so others can learn from them as we move increasingly to improved care based on best practice.

"Innovative thinking is vital to meeting the challenge of delivering world-class health care to our growing, ageing population.

"The key is to remain engaged and vigilant. The world is changing every day - as are the needs of the communities we serve - and so must we," Mrs Skinner said.

Minister Humphries said: “This second annual symposium reflects the NSW Government’s commitment to change, improve and deliver outstanding clinical, community and mental health care to our communities.

“The innovation that was on display today will ensure a better tomorrow for every resident of this state.

“Creating a culture of innovation and innovative thinking will play an extremely important role in our commitment to deliver a world-class health system for the people of NSW, Minister Humphries said.

To view the innovations, visit the Innovation Showcase on the NSW Health website via <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/innovation/2013symposium/Pages/default.aspx>