



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 21 October 2013

NEW MENTAL HEALTH UNIT AT WAGGA WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL OFFICIALLY OPEN

Another significant milestone was reached today in the \$282.1 million redevelopment of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital with the official opening of its new Mental Health Unit.

Minister for Health Jillian Skinner and Wagga Wagga MP Daryl Maguire were on hand to officially open the state-of-the-art, 50-bed mental health facility.

The new mental health unit features:

- Single patient bedrooms with ensuites and courtyard views
- Large dining and living areas
- Outdoor areas and courtyards
- Two gymnasiums
- Family visiting rooms
- Activity rooms
- Large windows for natural light

Mrs Skinner said today is a day of celebration for Wagga Wagga and the wider community.

“The NSW Liberal & Nationals Government is firmly committed to ensuring patients in regional areas have access to quality, timely health care and this new facility will provide enhanced mental health services for the community,” Mrs Skinner said.

“This is a warm and welcoming state-of-the-art facility and I share the community’s excitement as it officially opens.

“The good news just keeps coming for Wagga Wagga – after this opening we have many more milestones to look forward to in the delivery of the \$282.1 million upgrade of this hospital.”

Minister for Mental Health Kevin Humphries said the number of mental health beds will now total 50 - an increase from 20 to 30 acute beds and a new 20 bed sub-acute unit.

“This is a momentous occasion for local patients and their loved ones who have been crying out for better mental health services for the Riverina,” Mr Humphries said.

“This is a service that will deliver comprehensive care and this facility will act as a drawcard for staff from across the country.

“The addition of a sub-acute unit will provide innovative recovery and rehabilitation services for local patients, close to home and family.”

Mr Maguire said the building’s innovative design and construction is based on contemporary mental health in-patient care.

“As a community we’ve fought for many years to enhance health services in this region and today’s opening represents the fulfilment of a commitment for myself and many residents,” Mr Maguire said.

“This is a rewarding day for patients, hospital staff and our community and marks another leap on the journey to delivering Wagga Wagga’s new hospital.

“The new mental health unit is an impressive facility and one Wagga Wagga can be proud of. I wish all the staff well in their new workplace.”

The new mental health unit is the first phase of the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital redevelopment, which will be built in progressive phases to allow the hospital to continue operation during construction.

Phase Two, which includes new facilities for emergency services, operating theatre and inpatient unit, will start immediately after the occupation of the mental health building – and ahead of schedule.

The \$282.1 million redevelopment is a jointly funded project, with the NSW Government providing \$215 million and the Federal Government contributing \$55.1 million from the Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF).

A further \$12 million has been allocated from the Federal Government under the COAG New Sub-Acute Beds Guarantee for 20 sub-acute mental health beds.