



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday, 31 October 2013

#### **NURSES AND MIDWIVES BOOST FOR RURAL & REGIONAL NSW**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today announced the distribution of an additional 40 nursing and midwifery clinical educator and specialist positions for the state's rural and regional Local Health Districts.

Mrs Skinner said these important positions will complement the 4,100 (2,800 FTE) extra nurses employed in the health system since the election and recruitment will begin shortly.

"These positions provide specialist skills and expertise to assist in educating and supporting less experienced staff to ensure quality care for patients and their loved ones," Mrs Skinner said.

"Nurses and midwives are at the very heart of our health system and the NSW Government is committed to bolstering this workforce for the benefit of patients.

"The vast majority of these 40 (FTE) extra positions will be recruited in our rural and regional hospitals to ensure patients are receiving best care, closer to home.

"Before the election, we committed to employ a further 275 clinical nurse/midwife educators in our first term and today's announcement demonstrates we are delivering on this commitment."

The full-time clinical educator and specialist positions will be based in the following Local Health Districts:

- Northern NSW - 3.5 new positions
- Mid North Coast - 1.5 new positions
- Hunter New England - 9.5 new positions
- Nepean Blue Mountains - 1.5 new positions
- Western NSW - 9.5 new positions
- Far West - 1 new position
- Illawarra Shoalhaven - 1 new position
- Southern NSW - 4 new positions
- Murrumbidgee - 8.5 new positions

"I am committed to supporting nurses and midwives working in rural and regional areas and assisting our hospitals to attract and retain staff by providing increased professional support."

Since the election, the NSW Government has increased the nursing and midwifery workforce headcount by more than 4,100 (more than 2,800 FTE).

Mrs Skinner today also announced the NSW Government will allocate 12 midwifery scholarships for rural NSW in 2014.

Mrs Skinner said that in 2013 the NSW Government awarded 10 rural midwifery scholarships to provide registered nurses with the opportunity to undertake midwifery training in their own community.

“These scholarships will assist communities such as Narrandera, Broken Hill, Lithgow, Parkes, Forbes and towns across Hunter New England and the Illawarra to grow their midwifery workforce,” Mrs Skinner said.

“I am very pleased two of these scholarships will support Aboriginal registered nurses to undertake their midwifery training.”

Mrs Skinner said all nurses working across the NSW public health system have now received their 2.5 per cent pay increase including compulsory superannuation payments. These increased payments have been backdated to 1 July 2013.