



**Andrew Stoner MP**  
Deputy Premier of NSW  
Minister for Regional Infrastructure  
and Services

**Jillian Skinner MP**  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Medical Research

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Tuesday, 4 February 2014

### **MORE NURSES AND MIDWIVES FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW**

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner and Health Minister Jillian Skinner today welcomed the 630 new graduate nurses and midwives joining hospitals across rural and regional NSW in 2014.

Mr Stoner said the new nurses and midwives represent a record investment in the recruitment of health staff by the NSW Liberals & Nationals.

“The NSW Government is getting on with the job of delivering more frontline services and nowhere is this more prevalent than in rural and regional areas of the state,” Mr Stoner said.

“We are recruiting more nurses and midwives every year to support existing staff and ensure patients in rural and regional hospitals are receiving best care, closer to home.

“This is an exciting time of year for our hospitals – last week more than 309 medical interns joined rural and regional hospitals and now we have fresh faces with new nurses and midwives.

“I welcome these new recruits to the NSW health system and wish them all the best,” Mr Stoner said.

A total of 630 new nurses and midwives are joining the state’s rural and regional Local Health Districts this year, including 91 in Illawarra-Shoalhaven, 208 in Hunter New England, 82 in Northern NSW, 73 in Mid-North Coast, 39 in Southern NSW, 61 in Western NSW and 18 in Far West as well as 58 in the Murrumbidgee.

Mrs Skinner said 34 per cent of the state’s new nurses are being recruited to rural and regional hospitals.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals pledged to recruit an additional 2,475 (headcount) nurses in our first term of government,” Mrs Skinner said.

“We exceeded our target in half the time we promised and I’m incredibly proud to say there are 4,100 (headcount or more than 2,800 FTE) extra nurses and midwives working in our hospitals and community than before we came to government.

“I’m fortunate to meet dedicated nurses and midwives across the state regularly and it is my privilege to see their care, compassion and kindness firsthand.

“As the proud daughter of a nurse, I know how fulfilling a nursing career can be and I wish all the new nurses and midwives well as they embark on their roles in country hospitals.

“It is in the hospitals of rural and regional NSW that nurses and midwives experience the full picture, as well as the rewards and challenges, of working in the health system.

“Choosing to work in a rural or regional hospital is a fulfilling experience and one many nurses and midwives cherish throughout their careers,” Mrs Skinner said.