



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday 3 February 2014

#### **NEW NURSES AND MIDWIVES START WORK IN NSW HOSPITALS**

More than 1800 new graduate nurses and midwives start work from today in 123 hospitals across NSW.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner was today joined at The Children's Hospital at Westmead by Member for Parramatta Dr Geoff Lee and Member for Granville Tony Issa as she welcomed 42 graduate nurses and midwives on their first day on the job.

They are among 500 graduate nurses and midwives who start work across NSW this week. The balance of more than 1300 will take up duties in the coming weeks.

"Today we congratulate these graduates on the success of their studies and wish them well as they embark on one of the truly great professions," Mrs Skinner said.

"It is my privilege, as Minister for Health, to meet nurses and midwives right across our state and to witness their skill and compassion. As a society, we rely on them to deliver the highest standards of care. They are the very heart of our health system," she said.

The 2014 intake of over 1800 graduates takes to more than 47,500 the number of nurses and midwives working with NSW Health in our hospital and health services.

"Prior to coming to government, the NSW Liberals & Nationals promised to provide an additional 2,475 nurses (headcount) in our first term," Mrs Skinner said.

"We met that target in half the time and I am proud to say there are now over 4100 (headcount / over 2800 full-time equivalent) extra nurses and midwives working in our hospitals and the community than when we came to office almost three years ago."

Over a third (34%) of this year's state-wide cohort of graduate nurses and midwives have taken up jobs in rural and regional hospitals.

"As the proud daughter of a nurse, I know how fulfilling the professions of nursing and midwifery can be," Mrs Skinner said.

"Today, I thank the state's newest nurses and midwives for choosing to devote themselves to caring for our community."