



Kevin Humphries MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Healthy Lifestyles
Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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**CONSTRUCTION OF \$67M MISSENDEN MENTAL HEALTH
UNIT REACHES ITS HIGHEST POINT**

A major milestone in the construction of the \$67 million Missenden mental health unit at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital was reached today with a “topping out” ceremony conducted by the Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries.

Mr Humphries said the ceremony - an old Dutch construction tradition which marks completion of the highest point in the structure and celebrates the achievements of the construction workers - was a major step towards the opening of the world class facility later this year.

“When completed, the new Missenden Unit will provide greatly increased mental health services for the Sydney community, as well as improved outcomes for patients and their families,” Mr Humphries said.

“Through the construction of this facility the NSW Government is delivering on its commitment to make mental health services more accessible and accountable and ensure help is available to many of the most vulnerable members of our community when they need it most.”

The 53 bed facility includes six new short stay beds and, for the first time in Australia, seven dedicated research beds.

“These new research beds will provide a platform for the clinical application of evidence based research initiatives of the University of Sydney’s Brain and Mind Research Institute and further enable innovative mental health services to be developed and trialled within NSW,” Mr Humphries said.

“This project is a great example of how the government can work with educational partners such as the University of Sydney to deliver facilities that are of great benefit to the community, while also providing excellent training opportunities and resources for students.

“The facility will also play an integral role in the NSW Government’s push to improve the lives of people in the state with an eating disorder by ensuring people have access to earlier and more effective treatment.

“Once open, RPA will expand its state-wide service to six adult beds to manage the most complex patients, in addition to its successful day programs.”