



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW ERA OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Mental health services in Greater Western Sydney will be significantly enhanced following the opening today of the Nepean Mental Health Centre by the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Jillian Skinner and Minister for Mental Health Kevin Humphries.

Mrs Skinner said the \$44 million centre - jointly funded by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments as part of the \$139 million redevelopment of Nepean Hospital - will significantly increase the range and availability of mental health services for Greater Western Sydney residents.

“Building this incredible state-of-the-art facility at Nepean Hospital will provide a wide range of vital mental health services for patients and provide a comfortable and safe environment for their families and carers,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Furthermore, in response to the considerable increase in demand for mental health services as our population increases and ages, this purpose-built facility has almost doubled the number of inpatient mental health beds at Nepean Hospital.”

The Nepean Mental Health Centre has capacity for 64 beds, including 44 beds in the acute and high dependency units. It has the capacity to deliver specialist mental health older people’s care in a new unit which includes a 20-bed ward and outpatient program.

Mr Humphries said the facility will usher in a new standard of mental health care for people living in Western Sydney.

“The NSW Government’s investment in this facility is a reflection of our commitment to increasing access to specialist mental health services for those in Western Sydney whose lives have been touched by mental illness,” Mr Humphries said.

“This new unit will not only provide specialist mental health services to the people of Western Sydney but also provide vital assistance and support to their families and carers.”

The Nepean Mental Health Centre includes single bed rooms, purpose-built triage and assessment rooms and a high dependency unit. There are also six landscaped courtyards inside the centre that provide respite from the clinical setting of the wards for patients, families and carers.

Local MPs Stuart Ayres, Roza Sage, Tanya Davies and Bart Bassett were on hand for the opening of this important new facility.

“This great new facility reinforces our government’s commitment to providing quality, responsive services that meet the needs of the individual,” Member for Penrith Stuart Ayres said.

Member for Blue Mountains Roza Sage said: “When we consider that one in five people will experience mental illness at one point in their lives, mental health is a big concern for our community. This centre will go a long way towards helping those who require hospitalisation as a result of mental illness.”

Member for Mulgoa Tanya Davies said the building’s design provided a regenerative setting, stimulating the healing process.

“The building is filled with natural light and the large feature artworks facilitate a healing environment inside the building,” Mrs Davies said.

Member for Londonderry Bart Bassett said: “This will significantly improve mental health outcomes for people who are acutely unwell in our community and provide the best possible setting for their recovery.”

Fiona Scott, Federal Member for Lindsay has welcomed the announcement and the additional resources for Nepean Hospital.

“The opening of the Nepean Mental Health Unit is great news for the people of Lindsay. Mental Health is a crucial pillar of our overall health and well-being and I am pleased this new centre will almost double the number of available mental health beds to 64 inpatient beds,” Ms Scott said.

“This will significantly improve the capabilities of Nepean Hospital when working with some of the many people who are challenged by mental health across our community.”