



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW LIBERAL & NATIONALS GOVERNMENT DELIVERS FOR ARMIDALE

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today officially opened the \$8 million ambulatory care and chemotherapy building at Armidale Hospital - and announced planning money for the next redevelopment stage.

Mrs Skinner, who was joined by Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall, said the opening is a momentous occasion for patients, hospital staff and the wider Armidale community.

"I have watched this tremendous facility grow from the ground up and it is with great pride that I am here today to celebrate its official opening with the people of Armidale," Mrs Skinner said.

"In my recent visits to Armidale Hospital I have said this project represents the way forward when it comes to the delivery of health care across the state.

"Ambulatory care facilities are vital to ensuring patients are cared for in appropriate facilities and Armidale is now leading the way in providing this model of care."

Mrs Skinner said the NSW Government has committed \$6.7 million for the new ambulatory care centre, which includes construction of an additional floor that will see all community-based services move into the facility.

"I was pleased to be able to commit the additional funding for the extra floor as staff wanted to ensure continued links and continuity among services," Mrs Skinner said.

The \$8 million facility provides a range of services, including chemotherapy, ambulatory care services or outpatient clinics, specialist consulting rooms for surgeons, anaesthetists, renal physicians, obstetricians and gynaecologists and chronic disease services, including dietician services

Mr Marshall said today's opening represents a celebration of the enhancement of health services for Armidale and the Northern Tablelands region.

"This facility will ensure patients can access more streamlined health services in one modern, purpose-built location for decades to come," Mr Marshall said.

"The ground floor of the building is dedicated to medical oncology services, providing

infusions for conditions such as anaemia, as well as immune and neurological conditions.

“The new facility will also greatly enhance Armidale Hospital’s capacity to treat cancer patients from Armidale and across the region.

“The new chemotherapy unit not only provides more space for cancer services, it also provides two additional chemotherapy treatment chairs, taking the total number of cancer treatment places at Armidale Hospital from four to six.”

While at Armidale Hospital, Mrs Skinner also announced \$400,000 to progress the planning for the next stage of redevelopment at Armidale Hospital.

“This is exciting news - the people of Armidale have spoken and the NSW Liberals & Nationals are listening,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Adam Marshall has championed Armidale Hospital and his support for further work and upgrades has been instrumental in securing this funding.

“The planning process for further upgrades at Armidale Hospital will involve consultation with local staff, clinicians and management to identify the key clinical priorities for this region.”

The redevelopment of Armidale Hospital will accommodate a refurbished emergency department, theatres, intensive care unit, inpatient beds, renal dialysis and chemotherapy and other ambulatory care services.

The Hunter New England Local Health District Board will determine details of the development based on future clinical needs of Armidale Hospital and local consultation.

It is anticipated the first stage of planning will be finalised by late 2014.

Mr Marshall said the \$400,000 in planning funding represents another win for the people of Armidale.

“This is great news for our community. I thank the Minister for responding so positively to our needs with this funding – it’ll allow us to further progress this important health infrastructure upgrade,” Mr Marshall said.

“I’m incredibly proud further funding is coming our way to ensure our hospital continues to deliver the first class care it is known for.”

Mrs Skinner said the NSW Government’s commitment of \$10 million towards the redevelopment of Armidale Hospital remains on the table, with the state continuing to seek additional funds from the Commonwealth. Total scope and cost of the rebuild will be determined through the planning process.

The new Armidale Ambulatory Care and Chemotherapy Building is available thanks to \$6.7 million from the NSW Government and \$1.3million from the Australian Government’s Regional Cancer Centres Initiative through the Health and Hospitals Fund Program.