



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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TWO MAJOR MILESTONES MARKED AT \$220 MILLION TAMWORTH HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson today visited Tamworth Hospital to celebrate two major milestones for the \$220 million redevelopment.

Mrs Skinner and Mr Anderson watched on as a Japanese Maple tree was lowered onto the fifth storey of the redevelopment for the topping out ceremony - a construction tradition that marks completion of the highest point in a concrete structure.

“Just nine months ago I was here to turn soil for the beginning of works on this vital redevelopment and it is incredibly exciting to be here again today to see this building take shape so quickly,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Kevin Anderson and I made a promise to the people of Tamworth and it is with great pride we can be here today to see our commitment growing from the ground.

“The \$220 million redevelopment of Tamworth Hospital demonstrates the NSW Government is getting on with the job of delivering the enhanced health services our communities deserve.

“This is a project very close to my heart and I share the community’s excitement in seeing the cranes in the air, the walls going up and the new hospital coming together.”

The acute services building will house inpatient and diagnostic services, including the emergency department, intensive care, high dependency unit and operating theatres.

Mr Anderson said the \$220 million redevelopment of Tamworth Hospital has resulted in the creation of 2200 direct and indirect construction jobs locally.

“The redevelopment of our hospital will change the way health care is delivered to our community,” Mr Anderson said.

“The benefits of this huge project are being felt across the community – from staff at the hospital, to patients and their families, to construction workers and subcontractors.

“After 16 years of Labor’s broken promises, our community had lost faith – the hospital redevelopment was long-promised and never delivered.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals have been determined to deliver for the people of Tamworth. Today is a proud day and one which demonstrates we’re committed to ensuring this upgrade is a reality.”

Mrs Skinner and Mr Anderson today also unveiled a plaque for the \$41 million North West Cancer Centre.

Mrs Skinner said the centre has been operating for 12 months and is ensuring rural cancer patients receive treatment closer to home.

“The community is benefiting from a new linear accelerator for radiation therapy, as well as major radiotherapy planning equipment, including a new CT scanner,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Those who would have travelled to Sydney or Newcastle for radiotherapy are now receiving this treatment locally - this centre has changed the way cancer care is delivered for this community.”

Mr Anderson said there are also an additional five places for chemotherapy treatment, with the numbers of treatment spaces increasing from 9 to 14.

“More than 25 patients receive radiotherapy at the centre each day and every week about 100 patients receive chemotherapy treatment in comfort of our community.”

Bill Castledine is among the many patients who have benefited from the cancer centre. The Quirindi resident has attended the centre weekly for more than six months to receive radiotherapy.

“I have nothing but praise for the staff, they were absolutely wonderful,” Mr Castledine said.

“From the reception staff to the specialists, the communication was excellent, which was a wonderful comfort to both me and my wife. The waiting room was friendly and inviting, the parking was hassle-free. The entire place was user-friendly.

“I’d rather be fishing but if I had to have treatment I couldn’t think of a better place.”

The Tamworth Hospital redevelopment will be complete in 2016 and the new acute services building will provide new facilities for vital services including:

- Emergency department;
- Operating theatres, day surgery and recovery;
- Intensive Care and High Dependency Unit (ICU/HDU);
- Coronary Care Unit (CCU);
- Maternity unit, birthing suite and special care nursery;
- Paediatric unit (children’s ward);
- Pharmacy;
- Medical, surgical and palliative care units.

The redevelopment of Tamworth Hospital is supported by funding of \$100 million from the NSW Government and \$120 million from the Federal Government’s Health and Hospitals Fund.

For more information about the redevelopment visit the website at www.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au/thsr