



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN NEW BEDS FOR TOMAREE HOSPITAL

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Port Stephens Craig Baumann today visited Nelson Bay to announce the purchase of six new electric beds for Tomaree Hospital.

Mrs Skinner said the Hunter New England Local Health District and its chief executive, Michael Di Rienzo, are to be congratulated for the investment which will mean all beds at Tomaree Hospital are now the latest available electric beds.

“These new electric beds, including a bariatric bed, will make a difference to the comfort of patients and the wellbeing of staff,” Mrs Skinner said.

“I applaud the District for its strong focus on improving the experience of patients receiving care at Tomaree Hospital, as well as the safety of its staff.

“Local staff can now deliver the first-class care they are renowned for alongside first-class equipment.

“One of my biggest priorities as the state’s Health Minister has been ensuring local hospital staff and management have the ability to make local decisions about the way they deliver care to the community.”

Mrs Skinner said the bariatric bed can support patients who weigh between 250-450 kilograms. Modern hospital beds can support up to 250 kilograms.

“It is important patients with weight problems have the support they need in our hospitals and I’m pleased to see Tomaree now has this service, which will benefit both patients and staff,” she said.

Mr Baumann welcomed Minister Skinner to Tomaree Hospital and said the new electric beds would be greatly appreciated by local staff and patients.

“It is wonderful to see Hunter New England Local Health District investing in modern equipment for Tomaree Hospital,” Mr Baumann said.

“The beds have user-friendly hand controls for patients and can be lowered almost to ground level, which is particularly beneficial for our aged population.

“The five new beds (worth a total of \$16,800) and the bariatric bed (worth \$16,000) will be delivered by the end of next month,” Mr Baumann said.

Chief Executive Michael DiRienzo said the bed replacement program is an exciting investment in modern equipment.

“These fully-electric beds will make patients more comfortable, improving their experience while they are in hospital. They will also provide improved safety for our staff,” Mr DiRienzo said.

While in Nelson Bay, Mrs Skinner congratulated the Salamander Rotary Club on its fundraising efforts for a new critical-care patient ventilator for Tomaree Hospital.

The club raised \$30,000 for the ventilator, which was topped up with some individual donations.

Staff members are being trained in the use of the machine and it is expected to be in use by June 2014.