



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Wednesday 14 May 2014

#### **NSW GOVERNMENT PUTS PATIENTS FIRST**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today made a commitment to the people of NSW that patients will continue to come first under the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government.

Mrs Skinner said there will be no cuts to hospital services and no co-payment for emergency department patients in NSW.

“The NSW Government will not implement a co-payment for patients accessing our emergency departments,” Mrs Skinner said.

“There will be no cuts to hospital services. We will continue our record investments in the NSW public health system.

“This is a government that puts patients first. We have invested a record amount in health, with a recurrent budget of \$17.9 billion this year – up 5.2 per cent over previous year and 15.5 per cent since I’ve been Health Minister.

“A further \$1.2 billion is being invested in capital works this year, with a massive injection of funds to rebuild hospitals right across the state – from Tamworth to Dubbo, Wagga Wagga to Bega, Blacktown Mt Druitt, Campbelltown and Hornsby as well as planning underway at Westmead and elsewhere.

“We are treating more patients and improving performance in emergency departments, with 70.8 per cent of patients being treated and either discharged or admitted within four hours compared to 59 per cent when I became Health Minister.

“We’re undertaking elective surgeries quicker and leading the country when treating elective patients within clinical benchmarks.

“These achievements are testament to the efforts of hard-working hospital staff. I thank the doctors, nurses and others for delivering better outcomes for patients

“These wonderful clinicians put patients first and the NSW Liberals & Nationals will continue to put patients first.

“There is no doubt there have been significant cuts to the funding of state hospitals in the Federal Government’s budget. It is cost-shifting and NSW will have to accommodate a loss of more than \$1 billion over the forward estimates for hospital services.

“I have spoken to the Federal Health Minister today and advised him of my concerns and am committed to looking at options as part of our Integrated Care strategy to ensure patients are getting the right treatment in the right setting at the right time,” Mrs Skinner said.