



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MONA VALE BEACHSIDE REHABILITATION UNIT OFFICIALLY OPENED

A new 26-bed rehabilitation unit was officially opened at Mona Vale Hospital today.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner was joined by local MPs - Environment Minister and Member for Pittwater Rob Stokes and Speaker of the House of Representatives and Member for Mackellar Bronwyn Bishop - to celebrate the opening of the \$12 million Beachside Rehabilitation Unit.

Respected Northern Beaches rehabilitation specialist Dr John Delohery cut the ribbon to mark the occasion.

The Beachside Rehabilitation Unit was built as part of the New Sub-Acute Beds Guarantee Funding, with \$10.5 million allocated from Australian Government funding through the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services and \$1.5 million from the NSW Government.

With the conclusion of federal funding for the operation of the beds, the NSW Government has taken over full responsibility for their ongoing funding.

Mrs Skinner said the contemporary facility is a great addition to health services for the people of the Northern Beaches.

“The NSW Liberal & Nationals Government’s priority is to provide patients with quality care in a modern environment, close to their home and loved ones.

“On top of the existing 30 rehabilitation beds at Mona Vale Hospital, the additional 26 beds at the Beachside Rehabilitation Unit will allow more patients to transfer sooner from an acute hospital bed and ensure their continuum of care,” Mrs Skinner said.

Mrs Bishop said: “This investment in sub-acute rehabilitation recognises the importance of Mona Vale Hospital to the people of the Northern Beaches. It will ensure the people of the Northern Beaches will have greater access to local rehabilitation services.”

The Beachside Rehabilitation Unit is adjacent to the hospital’s existing Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit, which has 30 beds.

The new unit features a mix of single and two-bed rooms to ensure appropriate clinical

It has a well-equipped gymnasium and includes multi-function spaces to provide group therapy and activities of daily living to ensure patients can return to their homes.

A variety of lounge, dining and activity areas allow patients the opportunity to rehabilitate outside of a bedroom in the company of other patients.

The unit features suitably landscaped spaces to aid rehabilitation (such as exercise through walking up and down stairs) as well as providing pleasant surroundings for socialisation and recuperation.

“The Beachside Rehabilitation Unit will give patients every opportunity to achieve the highest possible level of independence following an onset of disease or injury,” Mrs Skinner said.

“It will also provide staff with a modern and inviting environment in which to undertake their important work.”

Construction of the 423-bed Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest is due for completion in 2018.

Mr Stokes said: “Mona Vale Hospital will be redeveloped to provide complementary health services, including urgent care, sub-acute care and palliative care.

“The Beachside Rehabilitation Unit will be an essential part of the future of Mona Vale Hospital, delivering vital services to our community.”

The first patients are expected to arrive in the Beachside Rehabilitation Unit in the first week of June.