



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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GARDEN FUN FOR KIDS AT CAMDEN HOSPITAL

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Camden Chris Patterson today visited Camden Hospital to officially open a new garden for children to play and relax.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government contributed \$25,000 of the \$60,000 raised by Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation to create the Kids of Macarthur-Karitane Children's Garden.

Mrs Skinner said the garden would be used by Karitane clients as well as families visiting loved ones at Camden Hospital.

"The Karitane staff at Camden Hospital help more than 300 families each year who experience difficulties with infant sleeping, settling and feeding," Mrs Skinner said.

"Most parents will tell you that children would much rather be outside playing than indoors so I know this garden, a safe outdoor area to play and relax, will be well used and very much appreciated."

Mrs Skinner thanked the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation for its leadership and the local community for its generosity in contributing to the garden.

"For more than 14 years, the Foundation has been helping enhance the quality of life of children in the Macarthur region and I'd like to congratulate it for helping to create this beautiful space," she said.

Mr Patterson said the Macarthur region is rapidly growing and home to many young families.

"The new housing developments opening up in the Camden area are bringing in many young families. By 2016, it's projected that more than 8,400 children under the age of four years old will be living in the area," Mr Patterson said.

"Young families should feel comforted knowing they can receive help locally through the specialist Karitane staff while at the same time enjoying the wonderful environment that this new garden has created."