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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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7 July 2014

### **Supporting mental health in Western Sydney**

The NSW Minister for Mental Health and Acting Minister for Health, The Hon. Jai Rowell MP, has reinforced his commitment to strengthening mental healthcare for Western Sydney residents during a visit to Cumberland Hospital's Mental Health Service today, 7 July 2014.

Mr Rowell was joined by Member for Parramatta Dr Geoff Lee and met with Local Health District's Mental Health Services Clinical Director, Dr Senthil Muthuswamy.

The Minister said the visit was a great opportunity to meet the front-line staff and see firsthand the compassion and dedication they show in caring for some of our most vulnerable community members.

"Western Sydney Local Health District is situated in one of the largest population growth areas in the state, and I am pleased to see the high standard of services delivered," he said.

"The NSW Government is dedicated to improving mental health services and outcomes for the people of Western Sydney, and Cumberland Hospital is an example of our commitment."

The Local Health District's Mental Health Clinical Services Director, Dr Senthil Muthuswamy, said it was a pleasure to have Minister Rowell tour the site's historic grounds, and take the time to meet with its hard-working staff.

"Minister Rowell's visit provided staff with the opportunity to illustrate the critical work they do in what is a challenging and complex healthcare specialty.

The facility offers a range of acute, non-acute and forensic mental health services including residential rehabilitation and outpatient clinics.

"Our staff are committed to providing the best possible care to all our clients. It is wonderful to see their dedication recognised; but more importantly for the critical role they play," Dr Muthuswamy said.

Cumberland Hospital is a significant State and National Heritage site featuring buildings which date back to the early 1900s.

The campus is divided by the Parramatta River, which provides a tranquil setting for clients, visitors and staff.