



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday 25 July 2014

#### **HEALTH MINISTER TURNS FIRST SOD FOR NEW \$72.5 MILLION PARKES HOSPITAL**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Dubbo Troy Grant today visited Parkes to turn the first sod of earth at the site of the new hospital.

A welcome to country was conducted by local Aboriginal representatives to mark the historic occasion.

The Parkes Hospital will be built on a site on the Newell Highway approximately 2km south of the town centre. It will be built by Richard Crookes Constructions, which has been awarded the main works contract. Work is expected to commence in coming weeks.

The \$72.5 million hospital is part of the \$113.4 million Lachlan Health Service Project, which is fully funded by the NSW Government and also includes the \$40.9 million refurbishment of Forbes Hospital.

Mrs Skinner and Mr Grant also visited Forbes Hospital today to inspect early works progress on that project.

“My two-day tour of major hospital capital works projects underway in Western NSW has been immensely rewarding,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Troy Grant and I have viewed progress on the \$91.3 million Dubbo Hospital redevelopment, inspected the work underway at the \$12 million Peak Hill Multi-Purpose Service, turned the first sod for a \$72.5 million hospital in Parkes and inspected progress on the \$40.9 million refurbishment of Forbes Hospital.

“Along the way we have been privileged to meet the clinicians and other health professionals without whom these great hospitals would be nothing.”

Mr Grant said: “I was proud to accompany Minister Skinner on her two-day tour as she saw for herself the transformation which is taking place across our district.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is delivering not one but four health projects for the people of Dubbo, Peak Hill, Parkes and Forbes, ensuring these communities have access to the highest quality health care.”

The new \$72.5 million Parkes Hospital will include:

- emergency department

- inpatient ward
- birthing suites for maternity services
- ambulatory care treatment area, including chemotherapy and dental facilities
- operating suite and day-only surgical services
- clinical support services, including pharmacy, pathology and medical imaging

The \$40.9 million refurbishment of the Forbes Hospital will feature a significant new build component and will include:

- emergency department
- inpatient ward
- birthing suites for maternity services
- upgrade of ambulatory care treatment area, including expanded renal and dental facilities
- clinical support services, including medical records and medical imaging
- refurbishment of the heritage building for office space.

Main works construction of the new Parkes Hospital and refurbishment of the Forbes Hospital are both scheduled for completion in late 2016.