



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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BEDS GO ELECTRIC AT WESTMEAD HOSPITAL

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today visited Westmead Hospital to see the difference more than 60 new state-of-the-art electric beds are making to patients and nurses.

The NSW Government provided \$260,000 to purchase 64 beds as part of an ongoing bed replacement program at Westmead Hospital. The beds will be installed in high dependency and aged care wards.

Mrs Skinner was accompanied on her visit by Member for Parramatta Geoff Lee, Member for Granville Tony Issa and Liberal candidate for Seven Hills Mark Taylor.

“I am very pleased these electric beds will benefit not only patients but our hard working nurses,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Patients will have greater independence in raising and lowering the beds, which is particularly important to older patients.

“The ability to easily lower the bed will reduce the risk of falls, while the high-quality mattresses will improve the comfort of immobile patients and allow staff to provide better skin health regimes, reducing the incidence of pressure injuries.

“The new beds have greater capacity to accommodate bariatric patients - with a safe working load of up to 250kg - and significantly reduce manual-handling risks to staff,” Mrs Skinner said.

Many of Westmead’s beds have been in use for 35 years and no longer provide the optimum experience for patients or staff.

Mr Lee said: “The bed replacement program at Westmead Hospital is another example of the ways in which the NSW Government is putting patients first.”

Mr Issa said: “These new beds will assist Westmead’s hardworking nurses and staff, helping to reduce the risk of injury from manually adjusting beds.”

In June, the NSW Government committed \$5 million to commence a major redevelopment of Westmead Hospital.

Stage 1 of the Westmead redevelopment will be worth in excess of \$400 million. It will include a new Acute Services Building as well as comprehensive care centres, which will co-locate all complex and critical care services to improve the treatment of

critically-ill emergency, trauma and surgical patients. More than 1000 clinicians, staff and community members have been consulted about the Stage 1 redevelopment.

Once completed, the full redevelopment of the Westmead precinct will cost in excess of \$1 billion, making it one of the largest hospital redevelopments ever undertaken in Australia.