



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **TOP DAY FOR HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI HOSPITAL**

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital's STAR Building has reached its highest point - a major construction milestone in the \$120 million Stage One redevelopment.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Hornsby Matt Kean today climbed to the roof of the five-level building to join hospital staff and builders for a "topping out" ceremony.

This European building tradition marks completion of the highest point of the structure, with a tree raised to celebrate the occasion.

A Wollemi pine donated by Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital physician Dr Robert Read for today's ceremony will become part of the hospital's landscaped gardens when the STAR building is complete.

Mrs Skinner and Mr Kean helped to place 10 small stars into freshly poured concrete, signifying the range of surgical and clinical support services which will be undertaken in the new building.

"It really was wonderful to climb to the top of the new STAR building today and look out across the hospital campus and wider district," Mrs Skinner said.

"Up there, on the roof, it was clear that a long-held dream for the people of Hornsby is rapidly becoming a reality."

The STAR Building (which stands for Surgical, Theatre, Anaesthetic and Recovery) is scheduled for completion midway through next year. It will include:

- eight operating theatres (including one dedicated endoscopy procedure room)
- three 28-bed inpatient surgical wards, featuring a mix of single, double and four-bed bays
- sterilising department
- new supply and docking bay
- kitchen
- Health Information Services
- pathology

The STAR Building will directly link to the existing HOPE Building (Hornsby Obstetric Paediatric and Emergency services), which incorporates the emergency department.

Mr Kean said he shares community excitement about the rapid transformation of the site.

“Whenever I pass our hospital, I am amazed at the pace at which the builders are moving,” Mr Kean said.

“Staff tell me how excited they are to be finally getting the state-of-the-art hospital they deserve and I know how much the community is looking forward to having a hospital that is a centre of excellence right here in our midst,” he said.

In December last year, the NSW Government announced \$500,000 to begin planning for Stage 2 of the redevelopment of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital.

Stage 2 is likely to include a purpose-built building which would connect to the STAR Building and prioritise increased inpatient medical beds, paediatric, intensive care and ambulatory care services, as well as an upgrade to the emergency department.

It is expected the first stage of planning for Stage 2 will be finalised by late 2014.

For more information about the Stage 1 of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital redevelopment, go to:

<http://www.nslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/AboutUs/Redevelopment/Hornsby/Pages/default.aspx>