



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Tuesday 19 August 2014

#### **\$282 MILLION WAGGA WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT SURGES AHEAD**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Wagga Wagga MP Daryl Maguire today toured the \$282.1 million redevelopment of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital as part of a two-day visit to the Riverina.

The new Wagga Wagga Base Hospital will deliver an enhanced emergency department, operating theatres, women's and children's replacement inpatient units, new intensive care and high dependency units, angiography suites, additional inpatient beds and a rooftop helipad.

The \$282.1 million redevelopment is a jointly-funded project, with the NSW Government providing \$215 million and the Australian Government contributing \$55.1 million from its Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) Program. A further \$12 million has been allocated from the Australian Government under the COAG New Sub-Acute Beds Guarantee for 20 sub-acute mental health beds.

Mrs Skinner said the progress made in the much-anticipated Wagga Wagga upgrade has been remarkable.

"The people of Wagga Wagga have waited decades to see progress made on their hospital upgrade and I'm very pleased the NSW Government is delivering enhanced health services for this community," Mrs Skinner said.

"The sheer size and scope of the works at Wagga Wagga cannot be underestimated – this is the state's biggest regional hospital upgrade.

"I'm told each of the floors in the new acute services building could accommodate three Olympic-sized swimming pools.

"After more than a decade of empty promises from Labor, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to delivering first-class facilities and first-class health care for the people of Wagga Wagga."

Mr Maguire said last month the 500<sup>th</sup> worker was inducted onto the Wagga Wagga building site.

"Our community is reaping the benefits from this major redevelopment. Almost 200 locals have been engaged in the building of our new hospital," Mr Maguire said.

“I have no doubt this redevelopment will change the way health care is provided to our community. The new facility will provide enhanced care for patients and act as a magnet to attract new clinical staff.

“I’m incredibly proud we are providing our fantastic doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and hospital staff a first-class facility they deserve and can be proud of.”

While in Wagga Wagga, Mrs Skinner officially opened the new Riverina Day Surgery, which has been established by several local doctors.

“The Riverina Day Surgery is a wonderful addition to health services at Wagga Wagga. I congratulate all involved, particularly Dr Richard Harrison, for delivering enhanced care and treatment options to the community,” Mrs Skinner said.

Mrs Skinner and Mr Maguire also met with members of the Palliative Care Alliance.

“We know that while 70 per cent of Australians say they want to die at home, only 16 per cent do - with more than half dying in hospitals,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Palliative care plays a vital role in the delivery of health care and I’m thrilled to see a variety of providers coming together at Wagga Wagga to deliver comprehensive end-of-life care to patients.

“Their dedicated teamwork is leading the way when it comes to enhancing the care options provided to those seeking palliative care.

“We know that to deliver better palliative care services to people throughout NSW, we must bolster community-based options and I’m pleased to see this happening at Wagga Wagga for the benefit of patients and their loved ones.

“I congratulate the Palliative Care Alliance on the important work they do and thank them for the incredible support they give to patients and their loved ones in the community.”

To view the *NSW Government Plan to Increase Access to Palliative Care 2012- 2016*, go to [www.health.nsw.gov.au/palliativecare](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/palliativecare)