



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday 21 August 2014

#### **NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART SUPPORT FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES AT LISMORE**

Mothers and babies will now have access to a modern Women's Care Unit at Lismore Hospital following its official opening by Health Minister Jillian Skinner today.

Mrs Skinner said the new Women's Care Unit, which has been operational since June, forms part of the current \$80.25 million Stage 3A redevelopment of Lismore Base Hospital.

The Women's Care Unit provides 10 beds for antenatal and postnatal women, with a patient lounge which also accommodates antenatal classes.

The upgrade has established a new nurse call system and relocated the staff station to a more central location. The Clinical Midwifery Educator and Statewide Infant Screening Hearing (SWISH) service are also now located in the unit.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to enhancing health services for rural and regional NSW to ensure patients have access to quality care closer to home," Mrs Skinner said.

"The new Women's Care Unit at Lismore Hospital is a great example of this commitment in motion and I'm pleased to see some of our smallest patients are already benefitting from this facility.

"There have been 238 births since the Women's Care Unit became operational in June this year – it's a busy facility with wonderful staff.

"The \$80.25 million redevelopment is well and truly on its way and it is wonderful to be back at Lismore Hospital to see more progress being made on this much-needed project," Mrs Skinner said.

Mr George said the unit is an example of the first class facilities which are being built as a part of the wider Lismore Hospital redevelopment.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is boosting rural and regional health services and I'm proud local mums and babies now have access to care and comfort in this fantastic facility," Mr George said.

"I want to acknowledge the dedication of the midwives in the Women's Care Unit for the excellent work they do. I understand patients who have used the new facility have been very complimentary of the rooms and facilities available.

“The construction of the Women’s Care Unit took place off site meaning less disruption for the hard-working staff at Lismore and faster progress on the project.

“I thank the wonderful staff at Lismore Hospital for their commitment to care during the redevelopment process.”

In addition to the Stage 3A redevelopment, the NSW Government has committed a further \$100,000 to progress the planning for Stage 3B.

The Lismore Base Hospital Redevelopment Stage 3B will prioritise the expansion of acute services zones encompassing critical care, operating theatres, maternity, new inpatient beds and support areas.

Stage 3B will also complete the relocation and consolidation of the community health and ambulatory care services, and provide enhanced teaching and education facilities.

A concept design of Stage 3B is currently being finalised has been communicated widely to clinicians and staff.

To view the Lismore Hospital redevelopment fly-through visit:

[http://www.hinfra.health.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_documents/publications-and-resources/lismore.m4v/](http://www.hinfra.health.nsw.gov.au/__documents/publications-and-resources/lismore.m4v/)

The Lismore Hospital redevelopment has been made possible due to a \$20 million contribution from the NSW Government and \$60.25 million under the Australian Government’s Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF).