



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **NSW GOVERNMENT DELIVERS ON PROMISE TO RYDE COMMUNITY**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Ryde Victor Dominello today officially opened the new Ward 8 at Ryde Hospital.

Following a \$3.5 million renovation, Ward 8 is now home to a 24-bed Assessment and Planning Unit (APU), where patients are seen by a multidisciplinary clinical team in the first 24 to 48 hours to ensure an appropriate plan of care, transfer or discharge.

Fourteen of the 24 beds are currently operational, ensuring the ward is future-proofed to meet the demands of a growing population.

Ward 8 also accommodates a four-bed transit lounge for patients who are being transferred in and out of the hospital.

“Prior to the election, Victor Dominello and I promised a \$5 million upgrade to Ryde Hospital, from remodelling the operating theatre complex to improving car parking,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Today, with the official opening of Ward 8, we deliver the final element of that promised upgrade.

“This, of course, is in addition to the purpose-built \$41 million Graythwaite Rehabilitation Centre at Ryde Hospital which I was proud to officially open with Victor late last year.”

Mrs Skinner said Ward 8 is a great example of how better infrastructure and a new model of care can combine to deliver the best care to patients.

“The Assessment and Planning Unit (APU) was built to support a multi-disciplinary approach to ensure more rapid assessment, early diagnosis and treatment plan development,” she said.

“The unit is also closely linked to the emergency department, enabling staff to safely transfer patients within the national four-hour benchmark.

“Our focus is always to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions and return patients to their home and community-based care as soon as it is safe to do so.

“I am delighted to see that Ryde Hospital’s new Ward 8 and APU are delivering better results for patients and a modern, bright environment in which the staff can undertake their vital work,” Mrs Skinner said.

The APU operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week with medical and nursing staff providing continuous care with overlapping shifts. Allied health staff work in the APU on weekdays and can be accessed on weekends.

Mr Dominello said it was a pleasure to join the Health Minister on a tour of the new Ward 8 and APU, where they met patients and staff.

“The people of Ryde are justifiably proud of Ryde Hospital, which provides outstanding care to our growing community across a range of clinical and allied services,” he said.

“I am proud to be part of a Government which has delivered on its commitment to upgrade Ryde Hospital to ensure the best care for patients, now and into the future.”