



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER JOINS PUBLIC IN TOURING NEW \$41 MILLION ST GEORGE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

The doors of St George Hospital were thrown open today as the community took the opportunity to tour inside the new \$41 million emergency department.

The facility - which was fully-funded by the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government - will open to patients in October.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and local MPs Mark Coure (Oatley) and John Flowers (Rockdale) joined tours of the state-of-the-art emergency department, which were led by clinicians.

The community open day had a festival atmosphere - red and white balloons festooned the ambulance bay as a band played, children had their faces painted and families and staff shared refreshments.

“The people of St George and district have watched this wonderful building take shape and I am thrilled so many took the opportunity today to see for themselves what an incredible facility it is,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The NSW Government recognises that St George Hospital serves a fast-growing part of southern Sydney and the northern Illawarra.

“This new emergency department will be one of the busiest in NSW, which is why it was designed to ensure timely, effective patient flow - from the moment patients arrive in the emergency department, to admission or discharge home.”

The new St George Hospital emergency department features:

- five resuscitation bays
- an acute hall with 34 treatment spaces
- an Emergency Medical Unit
- two designated fast track zones, one for adults and the other for paediatrics. (The adult fast track zone features is designed for lower acuity patients who can be diagnosed and treated quickly)
- relocation of Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre (PECC)
- satellite imaging
- expanded waiting and triage areas
- eight space off-street ambulance drop-off zone
- potential for additional storeys to be added in future redevelopment stages

Mrs Skinner thanked clinicians and staff for their support and patience during the construction project.

“We can build great hospitals - and we are, right across the state - but I never lose sight of the fact that it is the clinicians and staff who make our hospitals great,” she said.

The completion of the emergency department is the start of an exciting journey for St George Hospital.

Late last year, Mrs Skinner announced \$800,000 to progress planning on a major redevelopment of St George Hospital, which would expand intensive care, high dependency and cardiac care services, create new operating theatres and enhance inpatient wards.

This year’s NSW Budget included a further \$4 million to commence the St George Hospital redevelopment and \$2.2 million to commence the redevelopment of Sutherland Hospital.

The redevelopments of St George Hospital and Sutherland Hospital have an estimated total cost in excess of \$300 million.

Mr Coure said today’s community open day is a realisation of years of hope and hard work by staff and community members alike.

“I am proud to be part of a Government which has delivered on its promise to build this new emergency department, which is just the start of great things for our great hospital,” Mr Coure said.

Mr Flowers said: “Many members of our community have been eagerly awaiting the chance to see inside their new emergency department and they will not have been disappointed. It is incredible.”