



Jai Rowell MP

Minister for Mental Health
Assistant Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 5 September 2014

CELEBRATION TIME AS BOWRAL AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL MARKS TWO SPECIAL OCCASIONS

It was double cause for celebration at Bowral and District Hospital today, as Minister for Mental Health and Assistant Minister for Health Jai Rowell welcomed a new child and adolescent mental health expert to the Hospital staff and also marked the hospital's 125th birthday.

Registered Nurse Kim Millard was recently appointed to the Bowral and District Hospital staff as a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Liaison, providing a significant boost to the mental health services available for local young people.

Ms Millard's appointment comes as the result of a generous donation from the Berrima and District Credit Union (BDCU) Children's Foundation and the local community.

"Ms Millard is a fantastic addition to the Bowral and District Hospital staff, and greatly increases the capability of the hospital to assess and treat people aged 5-17 years who are facing mental health issues," Mr Rowell said.

An experienced youth mental health expert, Ms Millard has already been working closely with the hospital's nursing staff and the treating psychiatrist to monitor patients, develop a care plan, help manage the children's care while they're in hospital and facilitate a smooth transition home or referral to other services once they've been discharged.

"An episode of mental illness can affect a child's development, so by engaging with families earlier, we're able to minimise this disruption and achieve better outcomes for the child," Mr Millard said.

"I've been very warmly accepted by the staff here and I look forward to making a positive difference to families living with mental illness."

Bowral & District Hospital General Manager Alison Derrett welcomed Kim and thanked the Berrima District Credit Union (BDCU) Children's Foundation and the local community for their generosity.

"With the support of the BDCU Children's Foundation and the local community, the hospital is now for the first time providing specialist inpatient mental health support for children," Ms Derrett said.

BDCU Children's Foundation Vice President, Ross Stone said the Foundation's focus was local children and young people.

"We are very pleased that Kim Millard has commenced in the role, which has been made possible by the generosity of the community," Mr Stone said.

"The needs of local young people living with mental health issues are well known and Kim will help identify young people at risk and provide additional support.

"The BDCU Children's Foundation continues to work closely with Bowral Hospital to identify needs that can be supported by the community in tangible ways," he said.

Mr Rowell also joined staff in marking the 125th birthday of the hospital, saying he was delighted to be able to share the occasion with hardworking local staff.

"This hospital has always held a special place in the hearts of locals, from its beginning as the Berrima and District Cottage Hospital right up until today," Mr Rowell said.

"It is in no small part due to the generosity of local residents that Ms Millard has been appointed to the hospital staff, which shows just how passionately local people feel about supporting this great institution."