



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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BLACKTOWN HOSPITAL LEADS THE WAY INTO A DIGITAL FUTURE

Health Minister Jillian Skinner visited Blacktown Hospital today to inspect its electronic medical records system, which is transforming the way staff manage patient care.

Mrs Skinner was joined by Member for Smithfield Andrew Rohan and Member for Mulgoa Tanya Davies as staff demonstrated Paper-Lite - the name given by the Western Sydney Local Health District to the implementation of its state-of-the-art medical records system.

“Blacktown Hospital is leading the way in embracing electronic medical records to enhance patient care,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The medical records of all new patients are now fully electronic, while existing and past patient records are in the process of being digitised.

“By moving away from paper records, Blacktown Hospital staff can quickly, easily and securely access patient records.”

Mrs Skinner congratulated Blacktown Hospital staff for embracing existing technologies such as bedside computers-on-wheels (COWs), laptops and tablets such as iPads to make their electronic records fully mobile.

“Staff are able to make the best possible clinical assessment as the latest information is at their fingertips,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Clinicians can now document and view assessments, progress notes, discharge summaries, consultations and operation reports, as well as order pathology tests, medical imaging and diet requirements right at the patient bedside.

“I congratulate the staff of Blacktown Hospital and the Western Sydney Local Health District, which will soon be rolling out the changes at Mount Druitt Hospital and Auburn Hospital.”

Blacktown Hospital is the site of a massive health infrastructure project - the five-storey Clinical Services Building, which is the centrepiece of the \$322 million Stage 1 Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital (BMDH) redevelopment.

The Clinical Services Building will include comprehensive care centres for cancer, cardiac, respiratory and aged care. Construction is expected to be completed by October 2015.

Planning is underway for Stage 2 of the BMDH redevelopment, which is expected to provide additional inpatient beds and new and expanded services to respond to the growing population and its specific healthcare needs.

“Blacktown Hospital is doubly blessed. It is home to a hugely impressive capital works project as well as innovative clinicians and management,” Mrs Skinner said.

“This hospital richly demonstrates that while modern infrastructure is vital to the health system, so too is innovation and new models of care.”

Mr Rohan said: “The future is bright for Blacktown Hospital, which will soon have one of the finest clinical buildings in NSW as well as a state-of-the-art, electronic medical records system.”

Ms Davies said: “It is always a pleasure to visit Blacktown Hospital, which - after years of neglect by Labor - is being transformed. Little wonder there is such a sense of excitement in the air.”

For more information on the Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital expansion, visit www.bmdhproject.health.nsw.gov.au