



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Wednesday 1 October 2014**

#### **MINISTER ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF SURGERY AT BLUE MOUNTAINS HOSPITAL**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today visited Blue Mountains Hospital in Katoomba to announce a million-dollar expansion of general surgery services.

Mrs Skinner was accompanied by Member for Blue Mountains Roza Sage as she toured the unit and met surgical staff.

The \$1.08 million expansion of surgery services - which will be fully operational by February - will include:

- a second operating theatre, which will open this month.
- recruitment of three new surgeons, bring the total number of surgeons to 11.
- two new outpatient clinics treating specific types of hernias and gallstones.
- recruitment of a general surgical registrar, who will operate between Monday and Friday from January.

Most of the surgeries performed at the expanded facility will be day surgery procedures such as gastroscopy, colonoscopy, hernia surgery and gall bladder removal. Emergency surgery will continue to be performed at Nepean Hospital.

“I am delighted to join my parliamentary colleague Roza Sage in welcoming the expansion of these vital surgery services,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The residents of Katoomba, the Blue Mountains and surrounding areas now have access to an expanded range of surgical services on their doorstep.

“The extra theatre space and expanded surgical workforce will also help reduce waiting lists for some common procedures.

“The NSW Government is committed to delivering high-quality care in a timely fashion. This expanded unit ensures the people of the Blue Mountains receive just that.”

Mrs Sage said: “The people of the Blue Mountains care a great deal for their hospital and are delighted when the range of services is enhanced, ensuring they can stay close to home to receive the care they need.”

Mrs Skinner concluded her visit by sharing a light lunch with staff, including several whose long service and high standards of performance have been recognised in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Rewards and Recognition Program.