



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### NSW LEADING THE NATION IN ELECTIVE SURGERY

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today congratulated the state's public hospitals following the release of a report showing NSW was the best performing state for the total combined percentage of surgeries performed on time.

Mrs Skinner said the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) today released its annual *Australian Hospital Statistics 2013-14: Elective Surgery Waiting Times* report, which shows NSW is leading the way when it comes to improved patient care.

"Today's report shows NSW is leading the nation when it comes to elective surgery procedures being performed on-time," Mrs Skinner said.

"The AIHW report shows in black and white the vast improvements that have been made in the delivery of elective surgery in NSW. Patients in this state really are receiving the very best of care.

"And while more elective surgeries are being performed on-time, this has not come at the expense of quality care in our system with the report showing NSW had the lowest proportion of adverse events reported across the nation.

"I'm incredibly proud of the advances made in elective surgery and know they are not possible without the hard work and dedication of our doctors, nurses and others who are delivering first-class care to NSW patients.

"In 2013-14 there were 216,675 admissions for elective surgery – an increase of 2,876 procedures on the previous year. We're treating more patients than ever before."

Mrs Skinner said the report makes a mockery of Labor's lies about the state's elective surgery performance.

"This report, which is publicly available, puts Labor's lies to the test and – no surprise – they have failed miserably," Mrs Skinner said.

"The percentage of patients who have waited longer than 365 days is the lowest recorded in last five years at just 1.8 per cent - this is a near three-fold improvement since Labor was in office in 2009-10 when 4.9 per cent of patients experienced excessive waits.

"Labor's denigration of the tremendous performance of NSW public hospitals is shameful. They should be rejoicing not running down the hard work of health staff.

“The truth is we’re treating record numbers of patients in better timeframes than ever before. This is something to be truly proud of and I congratulate our hospital staff for continuing their pursuit of the very best care for patients in NSW.”