



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **IT'S OFFICIAL: ANOTHER STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING OPENS AT ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Mental Health Minister Jai Rowell today officially opened Royal North Shore Hospital's new \$153 million Clinical Services Building.

The eight-storey building houses maternity, women's health, burns, neonatal special care, paediatrics, orthopaedics and mental health services.

"Exactly two years ago on this day it was my privilege to officially open Royal North Shore Hospital's new Acute Services Building," Mrs Skinner said.

"Today we celebrate the opening of this wonderful new Clinical Services Building, which adjoins it.

"Prior to the 2011 election, I made a personal commitment to clinicians that, in Government, I would address their concerns about the inadequacies of some aspects of the planned Royal North Shore Hospital redevelopment, including the configuration of wards and theatres and the number of inpatient beds.

"I am very proud to say this state-of-the-art Clinical Services Building delivers on that promise. It has been future-proofed to ensure we meet demand for years to come and is further proof of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's commitment to rebuilding the state's hospitals, which suffered 16 years of Labor neglect."

The new Clinical Services Building accommodates:

- 40 maternity beds;
- 32 neonatal Intensive Care Unit cots;
- 12 burns beds;
- 24 paediatric beds;
- a 32-bed mental health inpatient unit (including a 12-bed high dependency facility);
- a 60-bed musculoskeletal inpatient unit.

"Royal North Shore Hospital provides specialist tertiary care to patients from across the city and throughout the state," Mrs Skinner said.

"This new building will ensure patients and visitors, as well as staff, are provided with the highest quality of care in a modern, warm setting, which is important to those experiencing difficult or life-changing moments."

Mr Rowell said: “To now have a mental health inpatient unit that is integrated within the tertiary hospital ensures staff, patients and carers have direct access to support from many departments.

“I am also very pleased that this new mental health inpatient unit has a design and layout that provides a safe, warm, inviting and calm space for people with mental health issues to recover.”

The Clinical Services Building features numerous artworks with the theme of nature and healing. They include an interactive display by the Australian Museum in the paediatric unit and a series of photographs developed in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens and Centennial Park Foundation.

The opening of the Clinical Services Building is the final piece in the \$1.3 billion redevelopment of Royal North Shore Hospital.

Other completed stages include the Acute Services Building, the Kolling Building, Royal North Shore Community Health Centre and a 350-space car park.

The refurbishment of the existing Douglas Building is expected to be complete by the end of 2015.