



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 24 February 2015

MINISTER WELCOMES 1,800 GRADUATE NURSES AND MIDWIVES TO NSW HEALTH SYSTEM

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today welcomed more than 1,800 graduate nurses and midwives who are launching their careers at 139 hospitals and health services across NSW.

Mrs Skinner visited Liverpool Hospital to meet the cohort of 41 nurses and midwives who will start their careers at that facility.

She was joined by Member for Menai and Liberal candidate for Holsworthy Melanie Gibbons and Liberal candidate for Cabramatta Maria Diep.

“I congratulate our nursing and midwifery graduates as they embark on this wonderfully rewarding career – about one third of them in rural and regional hospitals,” Mrs Skinner said.

“As I travel the state it is my privilege to meet dedicated nurses and midwives, to see them interact with their patients and to learn about the innovative models of care they are introducing to our hospitals.”

Prior to the coming to Government in March 2011, the NSW Liberals & Nationals promises to boost the nursing workforce by 2475 in the first four-year term.

The increase has been much greater than that. There are now 4600 extra nurses and midwives - or 3400 full-time equivalent – working in the NSW public health system, taking the state’s nursing and midwifery workforce to over 48,000.

“The NSW public hospital system simply could not function without nurses - they are at the heart of everything we do,” said Mrs Skinner, whose mother was a nurse.

“They provide round-the-clock care and emotional support every day to patients treated in our public hospitals, at home or in the community.

“Today I thank our newest nurses and midwives for choosing to devote themselves to this most vital profession.”