



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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BAIRD GOVERNMENT TO BOOST PAEDIATRIC MEDICAL RESEARCH CAPABILITIES

A re-elected Baird Government will invest \$25 million to expand and improve paediatric research facilities in NSW to unlock cures and treatments of the future.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today announced the funding, saying a centrepiece of the investment will be the establishment of Australia's first large-scale clinical trials centre exclusively for paediatric research.

"This is a ground-breaking investment and one which has life-saving potential for children and babies right across Australia," Mrs Skinner said.

"The \$6 million clinical trials centre will be built at the Kids Research Institute (KRI) as part of the Sydney Children's Hospital Network.

"Paediatric researchers from across NSW, including the KRI, the Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) at Westmead and the Children's Cancer Institute (CCI) at Randwick will all have access to the facility.

"The importance of these organisations working together cannot be underestimated. This is a first for NSW and work will begin on-site in the next term of the Baird Government if re-elected on March 28.

"Having a dedicated, large-scale paediatric clinical trials centre will increase global interest in NSW as a centre for excellence for medical research.

"The Baird Government has a clear record of delivery when it comes to medical research. We've invested \$900 million over our first term to support our best and brightest minds in their pursuit of cures and treatments."

In addition to the \$6 million investment in the new paediatric clinical trials centre, other projects to be delivered via the \$25 million injection include:

- \$5.5 million upgrade to facilities, equipment and technology across the three main research facilities - KRI, CMRI and CCI.
- \$1 million to enhance the Gene Vector Lab at CMRI.
- \$10 million to relocate all paediatric research pockets scattered across the Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick to one floor of the Nelune building, as part of the Bright Alliance.

- \$2.5 million to upgrade and increase lab space for the personalised medicine program at the Children's Cancer Institute at Randwick.

Mrs Skinner said the funding will complement the \$20 million invested by the Baird Government in its first term to fund the expansion of CMRI. The expansion doubled the research capability of CMRI by adding laboratory space for an extra 120 scientists.