

Tuesday, 23 June 2015

RECORD \$21 BILLION HEALTH BUDGET BOOSTS FRONTLINE CARE

Record health funding in the NSW Budget will allow an extra 90,000 people to be treated in an emergency department, 40,000 extra hospital admissions and 3100 additional elective surgeries, Health Minister Jillian Skinner said today.

Recurrent spending in health in 2015-16 will be \$19.6 billion - up \$976 million (or 5.2%) on the previous year to enable NSW Health to meet increased demand.

\$1.4 billion will be spent on the capital program in 2015-16, taking the total health budget to \$21 billion.

The health highlights in the 2015-16 NSW Budget are:

- \$325 million for **increased hospital activity**, including:
 - 90,000 extra emergency department attendances
 - 40,000 extra admissions (including 3,100 extra elective surgeries)
- \$1.4 billion in **capital works** funding to continue the unprecedented program of building and rebuilding hospitals and health facilities across the state.
- \$1.7 billion for **mental health services**.
- \$9.3 million to fund **90 new specialised nursing, midwifery and support staff**.
- \$3.5 million to support further growth in **medical, dental and allied health workforces, including 22 new medical training positions**.
- \$1.5 million towards the Government's commitment to employ **an extra 35 specialist paramedics** over the next four years.
- an extra \$4.8 million for the **Medical Devices Fund** and commercialisation initiatives to help more locally-developed medical devices reach the market.
- \$49.9 million for the **National Partnership Agreement on Adult Public Dental Services**.
- \$159 million over four years for **medical research**.
- \$10 million grant towards construction of Stage 1 of the **Royal Far West Centre for Child Health and Learning** at Manly.

- \$4 million for **programs to reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes**.
- \$3.3 million to enhance **the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS)** to assist rural families who travel to larger centres for specialist medical care.
- almost \$3.5 million to enhance access to **specialist palliative care services and pain management services** in rural and regional NSW.
- \$5 million to further **increase eHealth network capacity** in rural Local Health Districts.
- \$1 million this year towards \$4 million over four years to rollout an extra **100 tele-health sites**, in addition to the 1000 sites already in operation across rural and regional areas.
- the **Health Care Complaints Commission** will receive an extra \$691,000 to support improved complaint handling.
- **five additional paediatric general surgeons** to undertake more routine surgery in local hospitals.
- **removal of the co-payment for Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs** for all public patients treated in NSW hospitals for prescriptions dispensed through public hospital pharmacies or community pharmacies. This commitment will benefit patients with cancer and other chronic diseases such as HIV, Alzheimer's disease and cystic fibrosis.

The 2015-16 Budget shows the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is delivering on its election commitments to people across the state," Mrs Skinner said.

"With a record health budget of \$21 billion, the NSW Government will fund record activity in our hospitals, bolster our clinical workforce and continue our massive hospital building program.

"We will also invest in innovative programs and new technologies to ensure our patients receive the right care at the right time in the right place, be that in the city or the bush, in hospital or at home," she said.

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