



## **Pru Goward**

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Medical Research

Assistant Minister for Health

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NSW GOVERNMENT SECURES AND ENHANCES VITAL PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE**

The NSW Government has today secured the future of a specialist perinatal mental health service for pregnant women and mothers across the state.

Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward said she was pleased to bring certainty and stability to the vital, life-saving Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Service (PIMHS) model through the announcement of recurrent statewide funding.

“Pregnancy and motherhood can be a very emotional and stressful time for families. Supporting new mothers who may be experiencing maternal mental health problems is important for the health and wellbeing of both mothers and their children,” Ms Goward said.

“This vital service is helping to reduce the separation of mothers from their families by caring for them in the community so their children and families are close by and part of their recovery, wherever possible.”

The NSW Government is investing over \$2.5 million in funding to PIMHS in 2015/16, then increasing to more than \$3 million every year from 2016/17 going forward across all Local Health Districts.

The increased funding means the PIMHS model expects to support more than 850 mothers with severe and complex mental illness each year, an increase of around 150 on the current number. This includes a Statewide Outreach Perinatal Service to ensure families living in rural and remote districts have access to specialist services.

Mrs Kerryn Baird, who was on hand for the announcement, congratulated the NSW Government for taking on the mantle of supporting this crucial service.

“Becoming a parent is an exciting time, but it is also hard. New mothers need to know that there is nothing wrong with asking for help if they are not coping,” Mrs Baird said, who is an ambassador for the Gidget Foundation, an organisation that raises awareness of perinatal anxiety and depression.

The PIMHS model was previously funded by the Commonwealth Government under the National Perinatal Depression Initiative.