



**Jillian Skinner**  
Minister for Health

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 23 October 2015

### **NSW GOVERNMENT DELIVERS PROMISED HEALTH CENTRE TO PROTECT YOUNG PEOPLE**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today delivered an election promise as she opened the Centre for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Adolescents from Drugs and Alcohol at The Children's Hospital, Westmead.

"The NSW Government is determined to protect babies and young children from the preventable effects of drug and alcohol abuse," Mrs Skinner said.

"The statistics are alarming: it is estimated more than one million Australian children are affected by alcohol consumption and 140,000 are substantially affected.

"Prior to the election, we pledged \$2.3 million to combat this. Today I am proud to be at Westmead to see that promise delivered."

The Centre for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Adolescents from Drugs and Alcohol will support:

- The incorporation of the current Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) pilot clinic in the new centre, to diagnose and support children exposed to alcohol in-utero.
- A Teenlink service - a successful program for children with a parent undergoing treatment for drug and alcohol related issues - in the new centre.
- The establishment of a research arm of the centre to discover the best treatment, diagnostics and counselling to improve the health of children and young people exposed to drug and alcohol misuse across metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas of NSW.
- A focus on essential preventative training and education for front-line health providers.