



**Jillian Skinner**  
Minister for Health

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday, 2 November 2015

### **NORTHERN LHDS CLAIM THREE NSW HEALTH AWARDS**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner tonight congratulated the state's northern Local Health Districts (LHDs) for winning three accolades at the NSW Health Awards.

The Northern NSW LHD took out the Integrated Health Care category for its *Early Detection of Chronic Kidney Disease in Aboriginal People* program, while the Mid North Coast LHD claimed two categories - Local Solutions and Collaborative Team - for its conversion of Wauchope Hospital's emergency department into an urgent care centre.

Mrs Skinner said the aim of the Northern NSW LHD's project was to improve identification and management of indigenous clients with early stages of chronic kidney disease.

"Before the project began at the Tweed Heads Bugalwena General Practice, only two per cent of adult clients were identified as having the disease. That has now grown to 10.7 per cent," Mrs Skinner said.

The Mid North Coast LHD's successful conversion of Wauchope's emergency department was underpinned by a comprehensive communications strategy, and aimed to continue providing high quality and sustainable care to a small rural population.

"I visited Wauchope Hospital earlier this year and was thrilled to see the innovation and commitment to care provided by local doctors, nurses and staff after the urgent care centre was implemented," Mrs Skinner said.

"Conversion to the centre has resulted in improved clinical service delivery, where the right treatment is delivered in the right place within an appropriate timeframe."

Parliamentary Secretary for the North Coast Chris Gulaptis wasn't surprised the northern LHDs were represented in so many different award categories.

"They do great work every day and should be applauded for their efforts in developing inventive and modern approaches to health care," Mr Gulaptis said.

There were 48 finalists in 11 categories at tonight's NSW Health Awards, with many showcasing their work at the NSW Health and Innovation Symposium earlier in the

day.

Seven categories were won by regional Local Health Districts, including Far West, Hunter New England, Illawarra Shoalhaven, Mid North Coast and Northern NSW.

“Tonight’s awards recognise the excellence of our nurses, clinicians, allied health professionals, support staff, researchers and volunteers, who strive on a daily basis to develop and implement innovative models of care with the aim of improving outcomes for patients across NSW,” Mrs Skinner said.