



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 20 January 2016

NSW GOVERNMENT EXPANDS WESTERN NSW INTEGRATED CARE STRATEGY

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Orange Andrew Gee today announced five new sites have been selected to join the transformation of Western NSW integrated care.

The Western NSW Integrated Care Strategy is a NSW Health initiative which strengthens the connection between general practice, hospitals and other health providers to improve regional health outcomes and reduce the number of avoidable hospital admissions.

Mrs Skinner made the announcement while visiting the Molong HealthOne - one of the first sites to adopt the Western NSW Integrated Care Strategy in 2014.

“The next wave of integrated care sites includes Blayney, Lightning Ridge and Mudgee, which all focus on patients with chronic and complex health conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. Coonamble and Walgett have also been selected to join the strategy and will focus on younger patients,” Mrs Skinner said.

The Western NSW Local Health District is one of three districts chosen by the NSW Government to lead the transformation of integrated healthcare. It has partnered with the Primary Health Network, general practice and Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health to ensure real change is made across the sector, with a strong focus on closing the Aboriginal health gap.

Molong, Cowra, Wellington, Dubbo and Cobar were chosen as the first wave sites to adopt the ground-breaking initiative. Since the launch, more than 600 patients have enrolled in the strategy, with extremely positive results.

“To date, the most rewarding achievement has been successfully creating new ways of working for general practice and community providers and improving the health for patients across primary and secondary health services,” said Dr Robin Williams, Western NSW LHD board chairman and Molong HealthOne GP.

The Western NSW Integrated Care Strategy is scheduled to be implemented at the second wave sites by mid-2016.

While in Molong, Mrs Skinner and Mr Gee inspected progress on the Molong Multi-Purpose Service (MPS), which will upgrade the current Molong Health Service to the MPS model.

“I turned the first sod on the project last month and I’m pleased to report the main construction works are on track for completion in the first half of this year,” Mr Gee said.

The Molong MPS will deliver a range of urgent care, inpatient and residential aged care services, as well as enhanced outpatient and ambulatory care services.