



**Jillian Skinner**  
Minister for Health

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, 27 April 2016

### **CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CORONARY CARE AT COFFS HARBOUR HOSPITAL'S CATH LAB**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Coffs Harbour Andrew Fraser today visited Coffs Harbour Hospital to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the cardiac catheter laboratory.

The laboratory opened in 2006 and provides full diagnostic and interventional services, including stenting and angiography.

Last year the laboratory received NSW Health funding of \$1.7 million for equipment upgrades. As a result, the service will now benefit from state-of-the-art equipment that provides excellent imaging quality.

Meeting with the laboratory's specialist medical and nursing staff to inspect the facilities, Mrs Skinner said the service is incredibly important to regional communities.

"The lab's services ensure local patients receive the correct diagnosis as soon as possible, without having to travel for testing," Mrs Skinner said.

Work on the refurbishment commenced in September. The first patients to benefit from the works and new equipment were admitted early this year. The project will also include an upgrade to the information system, to be undertaken this year.

Mr Fraser said the Mid North Coast Local Health District now has two cardiac catheter laboratories within its boundaries, following the opening of a new service at Port Macquarie Hospital last year.

"More community members are receiving health care closer to home thanks to our improvements to regional health infrastructure and services," Mr Fraser said.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has committed \$156 million to the major redevelopment of Coffs Harbour Hospital. The investment will see enhancements to the existing surgical and operating theatres, in addition to new theatres, a new short stay surgical unit, orthopaedic and vascular unit, ambulatory care area and the expansion of community health. Work will begin in this term of government.