



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

Pru Goward
Minister for Mental Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 9 May 2016

\$88 MILLION BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL OFFICIALLY OPENED

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward today officially opened the \$88 million Byron Central Hospital and mental health unit.

They were joined by NSW Parliamentary colleagues and community members on a tour of the new facility at Ewingsdale.

Mrs Skinner said Byron Central Hospital will transform health care in the Byron Shire.

“Hospital and ambulatory care patients will both be able to access expanded clinical and integrated services under one roof. The emergency department is now offering a higher level of emergency care than previously available in the district,” Mrs Skinner said.

“I thank the project team and Byron’s dedicated health professionals for delivering this long-awaited hospital to the community.

“I particularly thank members of the local community whom I first met nearly 20 years ago when they were campaigning with then Member for Ballina Don Page to secure a new hospital. Byron Central Hospital is testament to their persistence and determination to secure the facility the local community needs.”

Services include 24-hour emergency care in a state-of-the-art, 14-bay emergency department, low-risk maternity services, enhanced x-ray and medical imaging, increased cancer care and an on-site pharmacy. New modern and spacious rooms allow for future capacity for up to 43 beds in the inpatient ward.

The purpose-built facility will also provide expanded integrated services for ambulatory care clients, with community and allied health services including a dental service with four chairs, physiotherapy and a rehabilitation gym.

Ms Goward said the new 20-bed sub-acute mental health facility is a first for the Byron Shire.

“Byron Shire now has a dedicated space to treat mental health inpatients which will add to services already available in the district. This unit will support step-up and step-down services ensuring people can live well in the community,” Ms Goward said.

The new hospital replaces the older, smaller hospitals in Byron Bay and Mullumbimby and community health centres in Bangalow, Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores.