



**Jillian Skinner**  
Minister for Health

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **BLAYNEY TACKLES CHRONIC DISEASE WITH INTEGRATED CARE**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Bathurst Paul Toole today visited the Blayney Multipurpose Service (MPS) and HealthOne to meet the new integrated care team tackling chronic and complex diseases in the community.

The integrated care team involves a range of health professionals and community services (GPs, community nurses, dieticians, physiotherapists, counsellors and pharmacists) working together to create unique care plans for enrolled patients.

Chronic and complex diseases affect nearly 40 per cent of the Australian population and include illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease or lung disease.

“It’s a pleasure to visit Blayney and meet some of the staff who care for patients with chronic disease in the community,” Mrs Skinner said.

“These dedicated health professionals provide a patient-centred approach, tailoring unique care plans to address the specific needs of each patient.”

Blayney’s new integrated care facilitator, Keely Hooper, who is responsible for enrolling patients to the program, said patients with chronic disease often feel overwhelmed by their medical appointments and medications and find it difficult to get around.

“My role is to help them better manage their condition by connecting them to the right support services,” Ms Hooper said.

Mr Toole said Blayney is one of nine sites in Western NSW currently pioneering the integrated care strategy.

“This initiative aims to transform health services in our community by improving health outcomes for rural and remote areas and reduce the number of avoidable hospital admissions,” Mr Toole said.

Western NSW is one of three local health districts chosen by the NSW Government in 2014 to lead the integrated care transformation. To deliver the strategy, the district

has partnered with the Primary Health Network, general practice and Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health.

Blayney residents interested in enrolling in the program should ask their GP. For more information visit [www.wnswintegratedcare.com.au](http://www.wnswintegratedcare.com.au)