

MEDIA RELEASE

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RECORD \$22 BILLION HEALTH BUDGET BOOSTS FRONTLINE CARE

Record health funding in the NSW Budget will allow an extra 79,000 people to be treated in emergency departments and 43,200 extra hospital admissions, including 4,500 additional elective surgeries.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner said recurrent spending on health in 2016-17 will be almost \$20.6 billion - up \$972 million (or 5%) on the previous year to enable NSW Health to meet increased demand.

Almost \$1.6 billion will be spent on the capital program in 2016-17, including \$128 million from the Ministry of Health expenses budget, taking the total health budget to over \$22 billion.

The health highlights in the 2016-17 NSW Budget are:

- \$375 million for **increased hospital activity**, including:
 - 79,000 extra emergency department attendances
 - 43,200 extra admissions (including 4500 additional elective surgeries)
- Almost \$1.6 billion in **capital works** funding to continue the unprecedented program of building hospitals, health facilities and ambulance superstations
- \$1.8 billion for **mental health services**
- **900 extra nurses, doctors, allied health and hospital support staff** (\$120 million) and **20 new medical training positions** (\$2.3 million)
- **65 new specialist nurses and midwives** and **30 clinical support staff** (\$9.8 million)
- **An extra 85 paramedics** (\$12.8 million) and the delivery of the promised **35 extra specialist paramedics** two years ahead of schedule (\$5.1 million)
- Almost \$5 million to **improve security in hospitals**, including \$2.5 million to recruit and train extra security staff, \$1.5 million to train emergency department staff to manage disturbed and aggressive behaviours and \$600,000 to provide existing security staff with skills specific to hospital environment

- \$17 million towards the new **NSW Ambulance Helicopter Retrieval Network** which commences in January 2017 and will provide 12 new helicopters and doctors on every flight operating out of bases at Newcastle, Tamworth, Orange, Wollongong, Canberra, Lismore and Bankstown
- \$11 million for **health services for Syrian refugee resettlement** in NSW, including nurse screening on arrival and in schools, catch-up vaccinations, specialist paediatric care and age-appropriate psychological and emotional therapeutic intervention
- \$14 million to **tackle childhood obesity**
- \$20 million for **integrated care** to create a sustainable and connected health system, including through the Health Care Homes initiative, in partnership with the Commonwealth's Primary Health Networks (PHNs)
- The **Health Care Complaints Commission** will receive nearly \$600,000 extra to employ five additional staff to improve complaints handling

“With a record health budget of more than \$22 billion, the NSW Government will fund record activity in our hospitals, bolster our clinical workforce and continue our massive hospital building program,” Mrs Skinner said.