



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 5 April 2013

MINISTER OFFICIALLY OPENS UPGRADED GRAFTON HOSPITAL

Clarence Valley patients and the wider community will benefit from upgraded health facilities following the official opening of the upgraded Grafton Hospital today by Health Minister Jillian Skinner.

Mrs Skinner was joined by Federal Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek and Clarence MP Chris Gulaptis at the official opening which marks the conclusion of the hospital's multi-million dollar stage one and two redevelopments.

"It's wonderful to be in Grafton to see firsthand how this redeveloped facility will benefit patients from the Clarence region for years to come," Mrs Skinner said.

"I have no doubt these redevelopments have enhanced local health services while also attracting new doctors, nurses and hospital staff to town.

"The NSW Government is committed to ensuring rural and regional communities have access to timely, quality care closer to home and these redevelopments highlight that commitment.

"The redevelopment of Grafton Hospital is also a testament to all that can be achieved when Commonwealth and State Governments work together to provide the best outcomes for patients."

There have been two stages to the Grafton Hospital redevelopment.

The Commonwealth Government committed \$19 million and the NSW Government more than \$500,000 for stage one, which has seen the construction of a new operating suite and an expanded emergency department as well as a surgical services upgrade including three new operating theatres, a recovery area, a new central sterilising department, day surgery unit and a range of new equipment.

Stage two of the project was again jointly funded by both the NSW (\$4 million) and Commonwealth (\$6 million) Governments and has seen the expansion of the hospital's medical imaging department and the development of six new orthopaedic surgery beds.

Mr Gulaptis said the hospital's medical imaging unit was fitted out with an advanced CT scanner, ultrasound machine and new x-ray services, which will improve diagnostic capacity for patients.

“This new facility demonstrates the NSW Government’s ongoing commitment to improving health services and treatment options for rural and regional communities across the state,” Mr Gulaptis said.

“Today recognises the significant work undertaken by all involved to turn plans for this redevelopment into a reality.

“It’s wonderful to be here with the NSW Health Minister today to mark a new era in health care for the Clarence.”