



**26 June 2009**

## **Tenders called for Narrabri Hospital**

Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, and NSW Minister for Health, John Della Bosca, have announced the tender process for construction of the new Narrabri District Hospital is underway, after the approval of the project's major development application.

"The Rudd Government has provided the NSW Government with \$27 million for the project," Ms Roxon said.

"The funding will enable the establishment of an integrated district health service in Narrabri that will make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of the local community. The existing hospital services and primary and community health services will be amalgamated and the ambulance services will be co-located."

The upgrade includes:

- New wards, emergency department, birthing suite and operating theatre;
- Two GP/visiting specialist consultation rooms and a procedure room;
- A dedicated therapy/gymnasium room for the use of physiotherapy patients;
- A dedicated mental health safe room;
- Two special care rooms for use by palliative care patients; and
- Staff accommodation, including 2 x 2 bedroom units, as well as a four bedroom house.

Ms Roxon said she was pleased progress on the redevelopment was taking place so quickly.

"This funding for the Narrabri District Hospital is part of the Rudd Government's massive investment in health care from the Health and Hospital Fund," Ms Roxon said.

"The Commonwealth looks forward to working in partnership with the NSW Government to deliver projects like Narrabri for the benefit of local families."

Mr Della Bosca said the Rudd Government's significant contribution to the Narrabri Hospital project ends a decade of Commonwealth underfunding of public hospitals and Federal Minister Nicola Roxon deserves recognition.

"The NSW Government has built or rebuilt virtually every major hospital and emergency department in the State and it's tremendous to have a Commonwealth Government now willing to assist in the funding of these vital infrastructure improvements," the Minister said.

"Four prospective tender teams have visited the site and met with local health service managers to ensure they are familiar with the project.

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“Tenders are expected to close late next month and it is anticipated a preferred tenderer will be on site to start construction by the end of September.

“The emergency department layout is impressive, it has been designed to increase patient flow and ensure patients are triaged and treated as quickly as possible.

“The new birthing suite will provide mums-to-be with a nurturing home-like environment, including a large bath to assist with pain control during labour. The suite will enable patients to be supported by highly qualified birthing staff and in the event a mother requires additional assistance, the suite is conveniently located near the operating theatre,” the Minister said.

“To welcome children who require care, there will be single paediatric rooms featuring a separate play area and secure outdoor courtyard for them to access.

“The design of this project has involved extensive consultation with doctors, nurses, administrators, cleaners and maintenance workers,” the Minister added.

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