



23 June 2009

The Mater redevelopment completed

NSW Minister for Health, John Della Bosca, today announced the completion of the third and final stage of the \$200 million Mater redevelopment including a new 100-bed acute inpatient Mental Health Centre.

Mr Della Bosca said the final stage of the new health service had been completed on schedule and within budget.

“The redevelopment is the first health project in NSW to be developed under a Public Private Partnership,” Mr Della Bosca said.

“It is a prime example of how the private sector and government can work together to improve health services for families.”

The project involved the redevelopment of Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital, including:

- An \$18-million expansion of cancer radiation therapy facilities;
- A brand new clinical services building including wards and operating theatres;
- A new Emergency Department;
- A new Intensive Care Unit; and
- Co-location of mental health services.

Minister for the Hunter, Jodi McKay, welcomed the completion of the project and said it was a significant addition to health services in the region.

“The Mater redevelopment is an important project for the Hunter and represents a major boost to health services,” Ms McKay said.

“This is about giving Hunter residents access to the very best health care facilities close to home.”

Ms McKay said the Mater redevelopment is also the last component of the Newcastle Strategy, which is the largest health related capital works program undertaken in the Hunter.

“Previous stages of the Strategy included re-locating services from the Royal Newcastle Hospital to purpose built facilities at the Royal Newcastle Centre and Newcastle Community Health Centre, and a multi-million dollar upgrade of Belmont Hospital.

“This has been a major investment in health infrastructure in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie,” Ms McKay said.

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health), Barbara Perry, said the final stage of the project features a new 100-bed acute inpatient Mental Health Centre.

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“The new mental health facilities have been built at a cost of just over \$46 million and include 10 additional acute mental health beds and four Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre treatment spaces,” Ms Perry said.

“Co-location with Calvary Mater Newcastle means mental health patients will have access to the general and specialist medical services it provides - including its emergency department and complimentary services such as drug and alcohol and toxicology services.

“The mental health facilities have now been handed over to Hunter New England Health, which is commissioning the units ahead of the scheduled move of inpatients from James Fletcher Hospital to the new Mental Health Centre on Tuesday, 30 June 2009.

“The move of mental health inpatients on 30 June represents the start of a new era for mental health services in the region and will deliver improved services for patients in purpose-built, contemporary surrounds.

“The new facilities are replacing outdated inpatient and outpatient facilities at the historic James Fletcher Hospital site in Newcastle’s central business district,” Ms Perry added.

The Public Private Partnership involves the NSW Government and Novacare - a consortium consisting of Westpac; construction partners Abigroup and Honeywell; and health and aged care support services company Medirect.

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