



Barbara Perry MP
Minister for Local Government
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health
(Mental Health)

Countdown to new mental health facilities

January 16, 2009

A new 100-bed public mental health unit being built in Newcastle is around six months away from completion, Minister assisting on Health (Mental Health) Barbara Perry said today.

Minister Perry will visit the construction site at *the Mater* at Waratah today with Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery and Minister for the Hunter Jodi McKay.

“I am pleased to confirm that the relocation of mental health services from James Fletcher Hospital to be co-located with the Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital is on track to be completed in mid 2009,” Ms Perry said.

A purpose-built inpatient facility is being constructed at the site, while existing buildings are being refurbished to accommodate outpatient services and office space.

Ms Perry said the new inpatient facility will have greater capacity than the units it is replacing at James Fletcher Hospital.

“The new 100-bed inpatient facility will include 10 additional acute mental health beds and four Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre treatment spaces,” Ms Perry said.

Ms Perry said the transfer of services to the new site is an important initiative in delivering improved services for mental health patients. Services will continue to be provided by Hunter New England Health at the new campus.

“Mental health services have been provided on the James Fletcher Hospital site since 1871 and service delivery has changed dramatically since then,” Ms Perry said.

Minister for the Hunter Jodi McKay said the new facilities will provide the Hunter community with improved access to acute mental health care.

“These key services will be delivered in a contemporary and improved environment with increased capacity,” Ms McKay said.

Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery said all inpatient services and most outpatient services will make the move to *the Mater* site in June.

“The co-location of mental health services with generalist health services at *the Mater* will improve access for mental health clients,” Ms Hornery said.

Several units will remain at James Fletcher Hospital. These include the Centre for Psychotherapy and the Hunter Institute for Mental Health.

The historic James Fletcher Hospital site will continue to be used to provide public health services to the local community.

What's making the move:

- All inpatient units are moving and will be located in the new Mental Health Centre, which is currently under construction. These include the Mental Health and Substance units, the Mental Health Unit for Older People, the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie mental health units, the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit and the Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre.
- Outpatient services including Dual Diagnosis, Neuropsychiatry Service, Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research, and the Mental Health Service for Older People. These will be located in The McAuley Centre.
- Hunter New England Mental Health executive and support services, pharmacy, health information service (including medical records), finance and general office, which will be located in the Mental Health Administration (currently known as The Convent building).

Note to media:

* *The Mater* includes:

- The redevelopment of the 204-bed Calvary Mater Newcastle, including an \$18-million expansion of cancer radiation therapy facilities. It is owned and operated by Little Company of Mary Health Care.
- The construction of a new 100-bed acute mental health facility on *the Mater* (including 10 additional acute mental health beds) to replace the existing facilities at James Fletcher Hospital. It is managed by Hunter New England Health.

Please note: Minister Perry will visit the Mater at 1.45pm today with Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery and Minister for the Hunter Jodi McKay.

Location: Strategy Office, Calvary Mater Hospital, Enter via Villa Street, Waratah

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