NEW SOUTH WALES

The Australian Government’s 2013-14 Budget provides NSW with a record $5 billion for its health system. This means improved health and hospital facilities, more frontline services, and improved care for patients, where and when they need it.

Record funding for hospitals

Funding for hospitals means more doctors, nurses and beds for patients — and better care. It also supports elective surgery and emergency department waiting times to help patients get treatment sooner. In this Budget, NSW hospitals will receive $4.7 billion — $1.5 billion more than in 2007-08.

Since 2007, $481.5 million has been targeted to improve emergency departments and $430.2 million has been provided to reduce elective surgery waiting times. Patients are better able to get a hospital bed — with an additional 428 sub-acute beds to be delivered by the end of 2013-14. The state’s health and hospital infrastructure is expanding significantly through $731 million in investments under the nation-building Health and Hospitals Fund.

Australian Government funding to New South Wales for public hospitals, 2007-08 to 2016-17

Note: Australian Government funding for public hospital services includes Public Health funding allocations. Health and Hospitals Fund figures include payments to New South Wales for other health services.
This includes:

- $96.4 million to redevelop Nepean Hospital;
- $160.1 million to establish a new hospital in the Bega Valley;
- $120 million for the second-stage redevelopment of Tamworth Hospital;
- $96 million to expand Port Macquarie Base Hospital;
- $60.3 million to redevelop Lismore Base Hospital; and
- $55.1 million to redevelop Wagga Wagga Base Hospital.

**New South Wales – funding for Health and Hospitals Fund projects, GP Super Clinics and Regional Cancer Centres**

**Improving frontline health care**

Primary care is the part of the health system which people in NSW use the most. This Budget provides $115.2 million (an increase of $19.8 million on 2012-13) to support the state’s Medicare Locals, part of the Government’s national network of primary health care organisations that are playing a central role in improving the primary health care system. Medicare Locals plan, coordinate and deliver health services for local communities, making it easier for people to access the health care they need, including after-hours, mental health and immunisation support.

Since 2007-08, the Australian Government has spent $178.9 million to improve primary care infrastructure in the state. $121.3 million has been provided for 20 GP Super Clinics. Nine of these — at the Blue Mountains, Grafton, Gunnedah, North Central Coast,
Port Stephens, Queanbeyan, Riverina, South Lake Macquarie and Shellharbour — are completed and operational. A total of $35.9 million has been allocated to upgrade facilities, improve training and expand allied health services within general practice settings.

In addition, since 2007, the Australian Government has provided $182.5 million for a range of primary health care support in NSW, including better access to after-hours GP services.

**World Leading Cancer Care**

The Australian Government is building a world-class cancer care system to ensure that people get the best treatment available. In this Budget, a new national $226 million cancer care package, funded by the Australian Government over four years, will ensure that people in NSW get top quality cancer care and support across a range of cancers — including prostate, breast, lung, bowel and cervical cancers. Youth Cancer Networks are also being funded to support young people fighting cancer. Since 2007, the Australian Government has invested a record $386.3 million to provide better cancer facilities for people in NSW. This includes $150 million for the Lifehouse Sydney Cancer Centre and $70 million for the Kinghorn Cancer Centre. This is complemented by $147.4 million for Regional Cancer Centres, including:

- Central Coast ($28.6 million);
- Illawarra ($12.1 million);
- North Coast ($17.1 million);
- Shoalhaven ($23.8 million);
- New England and the North West ($31.7 million); and
- The Lismore Integrated Cancer Care Centre and patient accommodation ($17.6 million).
Funding at Orange Hospital ($9.4 million) and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney ($7.1 million) is improving access to radiation oncology. Other initiatives include $18.9 million for digital mammography equipment.

**More doctors**

More doctors are training to be GPs and specialists in NSW. In 2012, 921 GPs were in training, compared with 749 in 2007. More doctors means easier access for patients. 

There were 166 training positions in 2012, with 58 more beginning in 2013 – a total of 224 positions for doctors to train as specialists.

**Dental**

The Government is providing $50 million to NSW in 2013-14 to cut public dental waiting lists.

This is part of the Australian Government’s $4.6 billion investment in sweeping dental health reforms across the nation.

As part of the reforms, our ‘Grow Up Smiling’ initiative will deliver dental services for kids and teenagers from 1 January 2014. This will mean that for future generations it will be as easy to see a dentist as it is now to see a doctor.