



MEDIA RELEASE

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\$15 MILLION FOR NEW MENTAL HEALTH UNIT AT PORT MACQUARIE BASE HOSPITAL

NSW Deputy Premier Troy Grant, Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Port Macquarie MP Leslie Williams today announced a \$15 million commitment to expand mental health facilities at Port Macquarie Base Hospital.

Mr Grant said the \$15 million new mental health unit would be a huge boost for the local community.

"This new mental health unit is much-needed and will complement the recently completed \$104 million major redevelopment of Port Macquarie Base Hospital," Mr Grant said.

"The current mental health unit at Port Macquarie delivers kind, compassionate and quality care to local patients but it is a tired facility in much-need of major upgrades.

"The new inpatient mental health unit will more than double the number of mental health beds at Port Macquarie Base Hospital and enhance the care provided to patients.

"Leslie Williams has been a tireless champion for her local community, bringing the issues that matter most to them, to the Government's attention."

Mrs Skinner said the Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to enhancing care provided to mental health patients across regional and rural NSW.

"Currently almost a quarter of mental health patients in Port Macquarie are transferred out of the area for care due to a lack of mental health beds – this is unacceptable," Mrs Skinner said.

"The new \$15 million inpatient mental health unit will change the way care is provided and will be of great benefit to patients as well as the wonderful staff here."

Mrs Williams said the announcement marks a record investment in health services for the people of Port Macquarie and surrounding regions.

"Port Macquarie Base Hospital plays a vital role in caring for communities from across the mid north coast and this funding will deliver specialised services for those in need," Mrs Williams said.

"I have been a tireless advocate of the care and comfort provided by Port Macquarie Base Hospital and I have been calling on the government to recognise the need to enhance mental health services.

"I'm pleased the Liberals & Nationals Government has committed funding to this vital project, which will mean so much to mental health patients, their loved ones and the dedicated staff at Port Macquarie Base Hospital."

If re-elected, the NSW Government will make a record investment of more than \$5 billion in infrastructure to make our health system the strongest in the country – which will result in total infrastructure spend reaching almost \$10 billion over an eight year period.

Put simply, this Liberals & Nationals Government will spend more in eight years than Labor spent in the entire 16 years it was in government.

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