



\$1 billion for health in Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service

24 May 2005

The NSW Government will invest \$1 billion in health and public hospitals in the Northern Sydney / Central Coast Area Health Service in 2005/06, Health Minister Morris Iemma said today.

“This year’s health budget contains **\$1 billion** for the Northern Sydney / Central Coast Area Health Service, that’s **\$79 million more** than last year, an **increase of 8.5%**.”

“This record budget means that funding for the area has **increased by \$534 million or 113%** since the Carr Government came to office.

“Our health budget is being invested in building the capacity of our public hospitals and the infrastructure that will improve patient care,” Mr Iemma said.

“Public hospitals are working hard to admit patients to beds more quickly, improve the performance of their emergency departments and provide more predictable access to elective surgery.

“This budget builds on the work that has been done so far and reinforces it with even more resources,” Mr Iemma said.

As part of this year’s budget the NSW Government will fund 50 additional permanent beds and community aged care places at Royal North Shore, Ryde, Manly, Mona Vale, Ryde, Hornsby, Gosford and Wyong hospitals.

“The budget announced today has allowed the allocation of the second stage of our \$227 million, 800 hospital bed program.

“This is on top of the extra beds and additional intensive care resources announced on May 1 and brings to 104 the number of new permanent beds that will be funded across the Northern Sydney / Central Coast Area Health Service this financial year,” Mr Iemma said.

“These additional beds are a part of the NSW Government’s record \$10.9 billion dollar investment in health and public hospitals,” Mr Iemma said.

This allocation of additional bed funding will provide further capacity for hospitals to cater for growing demand,” Mr Iemma said.

Mr Iemma said the additional acute and sub acute care hospital beds would be allocated as follows:

Hospital	1ST Bed Allocation (1 May)	2nd Bed Allocation	Total
Royal North Shore	20 acute beds 2 ICU	8	30
Gosford	4	4	8
Wyong	8	10	18
Hornsby	8 acute beds 1 ICU bed	10	19
Ryde	3	4	7
Manly	3	4	7
Mona Vale	3	0	3
Community Aged Care	2	10	12
Total			104

“Our public hospitals are under pressure from an ageing and growing population and we are responding to this increasing demand with more beds in hospitals right across NSW,” Mr Lemma said.

Mr Lemma said the timing of opening the new beds would be dependant on hospitals securing sufficient nursing staff to bring the beds into service.

This year’s budget also includes \$10.4 million for new and ongoing capital works including:

- \$1.45 million for refurbishment of the Manly Hospital Intensive Care Unit;
- \$2.1 million for the upgrade and refurbishment of the Mona Vale Emergency Department;
- \$500,000 for the commissioning of the state of the art burns theatre at Royal North Shore Hospital
- \$5.3 million for the upgrading of the Royal North Shore Hospital High Dependency Unit and 23 hour and day surgery units;
- \$1.1 million for the refurbishment of the Ryde Hospital peri-operative unit.
- \$25.9 million for Stage 2 of the Royal North Shore Hospital campus;
- \$9.5 million for the ongoing upgrade of Gosford Hospital including new cardiac catheterisation labs, operating theatres and emergency department;
- \$15.3 million for the ongoing Wyong Hospital redevelopment;
- \$8 million for the construction of new Obstetrics, Paediatrics and Emergency Services at Hornsby Hospital;
- \$3.8 million for redevelopment works on a new 15 bed intensive care psychiatric unit at Hornsby Hospital;
- \$1.6 million for refurbishment of facilities at Mona Vale Hospital for provision of Transitional Care Services;
- \$3 million to build a new 20 bed transitional care inpatient unit for aged residents at Woy Woy.

Further information: Ben Wilson 0407 966 083