

## Health and Hospitals Fund

<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project Cost</b>
Construct of the Nepean Clinical School	\$17,200,000

15 May 2009

## Media Release

# Rudd Government Invests in Nepean Clinical School

Penrith will move a step closer to becoming a hub for medical research and a training ground for new doctors with the Rudd Government's investment of \$17.2 million in the proposed Nepean Clinical School, said Federal Member for Lindsay, David Bradbury.

The funding, which is from the Rudd Government's nation building Health and Hospitals Fund, was announced in the Budget.

The new facility will be built on land acquired by the University of Sydney opposite Nepean Hospital, and will house the University's Nepean Clinical School.

The University of Sydney currently trains around 200 doctors each year at Nepean Hospital, and the new facility will allow those students to also participate in cutting-edge research and specialist medical training.

The new Clinical School will also provide space for GPs and specialists who are training medical students to offer bulk-billed clinical services to local patients.

"The Rudd Government is making an important investment in the health infrastructure of our community," said Mr Bradbury.

"Along with the massive redevelopment of Nepean Hospital and the construction of the Nepean Clinical School, residents of our local community will have access to a state-of-the art medical precinct designed to attract and retain some of the best clinicians in the country.

"These are also significant construction projects that will help to support local jobs and 'Keep Penrith Working'.

"The new Nepean Clinical School will be at the forefront of training new doctors, many of whom will go on to practice medicine in Western Sydney and provide better access to health care for patients in the region.

"The Clinical School will also be a hub for medical research, attracting cutting edge trials of medical technologies and treatments.

"The provision of bulk-billed specialist and GP services will also help to make medical care that may otherwise be too costly to access more affordable for local residents, and I welcome the contribution that these dedicated clinicians will no doubt make to our community."

Associate Dean of the Nepean Clinical School, University of Sydney Professor Michael Peek, said the new facility would help to boost the medical workforce in Western Sydney.

“What is being funded here is more than just a building, it is the development of a coordinated approach to the delivery of affordable specialist care to the people of our area in a setting that promotes clinical research and education for medical students, specialists in training and other allied health staff,” said Prof. Peek.

“Such training opportunities under the current systems are difficult to deliver. This project is one step in helping build a sustainable health workforce for Australians. The University of Sydney is looking forward to this opportunity to work in collaboration with the Federal Government to strengthen healthcare in Western Sydney through clinical service, education and research.”

“I am proud to be part of a Rudd Government that has delivered this historic investment in nation-building infrastructure that will support local jobs today and meet our community’s health needs into the future,” said Mr Bradbury.