

## Health and Hospitals Fund

<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project Cost</b>
Redevelopment of Nepean Hospital	\$96,400,000



# The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

Minister for Health and Ageing

## David Bradbury MP

Federal Member for Lindsay

13 May 2009

### Joint Media Release

# Nepean Hospital to be Expanded and New Clinical School Established

The Rudd Government will provide \$113.6 million to expand and redevelop the Nepean Hospital and construct a new clinical school, also at the Hospital.

The Nepean Hospital is to be expanded with funding from the 2009-10 Budget, bringing major benefits to patients in the area.

The Rudd Government is providing \$96.4 million over five years, starting in 2008-09, to expand the hospital's infrastructure. This will include a new East Block, expansion of in-centre renal dialysis stations, mental and dental health services and the Intensive Care Unit, and major equipment upgrades and refurbishments.

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, said that an expanded Nepean Hospital will benefit people living in the outer Western Sydney areas of Penrith, Blacktown, the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury.

Member for Lindsay, David Bradbury said that the project will not only dramatically improve access to health services, but will help to stimulate the local economy by creating jobs in the local construction industry and help to 'Keep Penrith Working'.

This project is expected to begin this year and be completed by February 2013.

The Government is also providing \$17.2 million for a Nepean Clinical School to be built opposite the Nepean Hospital. The school will be of major benefit to medical and other health students, clinicians and researchers. Through greatly improved facilities, it will enhance clinical teaching and research.

Ms Roxon said that the school will focus on clinical research, including managing and conducting clinical trials, and will improve access to specialist services for the local community.

“It will provide training for the increasing numbers of medical students, as well as opportunities for students to learn in other areas of health, notably nursing, midwifery, dentistry, physiotherapy, radiation therapy and radiography.”

Mr Bradbury said, “I welcome this massive funding boost for Nepean Hospital and congratulate all who have worked so hard to see this funding become a reality.

“This is a shot in the arm for health funding for this important health facility for the people of Western Sydney.

“The new clinical school provides opportunities for medical students from Western Sydney to finish their training locally and hopefully will encourage them to stay in the west,” Mr Bradbury said.

Both projects will be supported under the Government’s nation-building Health and Hospitals Fund, which is building health infrastructure for the 21st century, while also creating employment opportunities.