



THE HON WARREN SNOWDON MP
Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health
and Regional Services Delivery

SHARON GRIERSON MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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Cutting Elective Surgery Waiting Times in Newcastle

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon, today joined with Sharon Grierson, Federal Member for Newcastle for a tour of the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle which has benefited from the Rudd Government's Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan.

The John Hunter Hospital has received \$391,652 for new equipment to improve elective surgery performance.

“By investing in additional surgical equipment the Rudd Government is supporting hospitals to provide more elective surgeries within the clinically recommended times,” said Mr Snowdon.

“The Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan has already provided \$43.3 million to NSW and delivered an additional 12,153 surgeries, and now Stage 2 has provided \$50.6 million to NSW hospitals to support the construction of new operating theatres, to upgrade existing elective surgery facilities, and to purchase new surgical equipment to reduce waiting lists,” he said.

The announcement was made at the latest consultation in the Rudd Government's round of meetings to discuss improving the health care system, following the release of the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission's report.

Ms Grierson said she was pleased the Australia-wide consultation on the Commission's proposed reforms could visit the John Hunter Hospital to hear first-hand for local health professionals.

“The Commission's report made recommendations for system-wide changes to health care to improve Australia's health and hospital system, and the Rudd Government is taking concrete steps to improve our health and hospital system,” she said.

At today's consultation Minister Snowdon outlined the Commission's recommendations and met with local health professionals and stakeholders to discuss their priorities to improve health services around the country.

“Targeting key pressure points in our health system, such as elective surgery waiting times, is a priority for the Rudd Government and will help ease the burden on our hospitals while long-term reforms are being considered,” he said.

All Australians are also able to contribute to the national debate on the health system via the yourHealth.gov.au website.

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