



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle



6 April 2005

HUNTER INNOVATION REWARDED

The Hunter's reputation as a region of innovation in cutting-edge industry was again on show today, with the announcement of Commonwealth funding for a major IT project in the region.

The Hunter IN-REACH project will help doctors and health professionals access medical records and research documents, ease the way for distance education, and improve the delivery of government services.

It will establish a broadband ring in Newcastle to link educational, health and local government facilities, as well a backbone from Newcastle linking hospitals and TAFEs in Maitland, Kurri Kurri and Cessnock.

The project is a collaboration between the University of Newcastle, Hunter New England Health Service, Energy Australia, Newcastle City Council, the Hunter Institute of TAFE, CSIRO, Hunter Economic Development Corporation, NSW Office of Information and Communication Technology, Hunter Councils, Hunter Water Corporation, the Maltby Group, and Hunter Medical Research Institute.

"Having met representatives of the project in Newcastle and in Canberra, I know how much hard work has gone into developing this proposal," Ms Grierson said. "Congratulations to all involved on securing funding to kick-start this excellent project."

"Health services in rural and regional areas have long been lagging behind, and the technical solutions offered by innovators in the Newcastle area can help to close this gap."

"I look forward to seeing the development and implementation of this important project."

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