



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP

Minister for Health and Ageing

SHARON BIRD MP

Member for Cunningham

JENNIE GEORGE MP

Member for Throsby

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\$5 MILLION NEW TRAINING FACILITIES FOR WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL

Health Minister Nicola Roxon announced today that up to \$5 million will be provided to the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service for the purchase of land adjacent to Wollongong Hospital and the construction of a training facility and student accommodation.

Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, welcomed the announcement and said that “the aim of this investment is to have students study here, have a good experience and then be more likely to stay on and work in the local community.”

The Member for Throsby, Jennie George added “this investment will allow for increased clinical teaching and training for students undertaking studies in medicine, nursing, midwifery, allied health including physiotherapy, speech pathology, psychology, occupational therapy, dietetics and social work.”

The funding, provided under the Rudd Government’s \$90 million *Innovative Clinical Teaching and Training Grants* program, will boost the number of clinical teaching and training opportunities available in Australia, including in rural and regional areas and in community and private practice settings not traditionally used for this purpose.

Universities, private hospitals, Aboriginal Medical Services, aged care providers and a variety of private practice settings will benefit from the additional funding.

Many of the infrastructure projects being funded across Australia will provide clinical teaching and training across the training continuum. This will ensure that people undertaking training are exposed to a broad range of health settings and experiences.

The projects are part of the Rudd Government’s strategy to increase the number of training opportunities and will support the long-term sustainability of the nation’s health workforce.

For all media inquiries, please contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220.