



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday 16 June 2014

#### **NEW AMBULANCE STATIONS OF THE FUTURE TO IMPROVE RESPONSE TIMES ACROSS SYDNEY**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today announced \$24.5 million to start construction of five new super ambulance stations in greater metropolitan Sydney.

Mrs Skinner said tomorrow's State Budget would contain funding to commence construction of five stations at Bankstown, Blacktown, Kogarah, Liverpool and Penrith and to purchase additional sites for future stations.

The estimated total cost of the station building and land acquisition program will be in excess of \$150 million over five years.

"While ambulance stations across Sydney have been refurbished or replaced on existing sites, a major new station has not been built in Sydney for over 16 years," Mrs Skinner said.

"The 2014-15 Budget underlies the commitment of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government to build the ambulance stations of the future to improve response times and reflect the dynamic nature of the paramedic profession."

Mrs Skinner announced the five new stations will be built at:

- 96-102 Canterbury Road, Bankstown.
- 10 Bungaribee Road, Blacktown.
- 1-9 Rocky Point Road, Kogarah.
- 1 Hoxton Park Road, Liverpool.
- 141 High Street, Penrith.

The sites were identified as part of the NSW Ambulance Sydney Metropolitan Infrastructure Strategy, which aims to improve response times by reorganising and enhancing infrastructure to serve paramedics who are always on the move.

An option which will undergo consultation by NSW Ambulance is the hub and stand-by model, which has been successfully implemented in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Under this model, larger, strategically-located stations act as hubs, where ambulance vehicles are housed, training undertaken and where paramedics start and end shifts.

Throughout a shift, paramedics rarely return to the hub station. When they are not responding to a call, in transit or at a hospital, they can await their next call at a smaller, stand-by station.

"Today's announcement builds on the exciting direction set out in the *Reform Plan for NSW Ambulance*," Mrs Skinner said.

"We are putting NSW Ambulance on a modern footing which will allow us to improve response times while using our resources more efficiently."

Since the election in March 2011, the NSW Government has increased the NSW Ambulance budget by \$26 million a year and boosted the workforce by 205 staff to 3,435 paramedics (full-time equivalent positions as at March 2014).

"The state's paramedics do an extraordinary job in what can be extraordinarily challenging circumstances," Mrs Skinner said.

"As the population grows and ages, so does the demand on NSW Ambulance.

"During its 16 years in office, Labor did nothing to future-proof our ambulance services. By contrast, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will continue to invest in NSW Ambulance infrastructure and our professional paramedics, who deliver expert, out-of-hospital care to the people of NSW."

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