



# **The Hon Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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November 7, 2011

### **WEEMALA EXTENDED CARE SERVICE OFFICIALLY OPENED**

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, today officially opened the Weemala Extended Care Service at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre in Ryde.

The Royal Rehabilitation Centre has a record of service to the people of NSW that spans more than 100 years.

Weemala provides specialist and complex rehabilitation, as well as health services and support for people with a disability.

The new facility comprises 16 higher care units and 16 lower care units, in a modern, spacious and purpose built conjoint facility and is the first stage of a larger redevelopment proposed by Royal Rehab.

Mrs Skinner said the new facility was a more spacious, home-like environment that reflects the community's enlightened view of people with a disability.

"Our focus today is about providing the best possible care for these patients," Mrs Skinner said.

"The service provides the comfort, security and independence the residents of Weemala deserve," she said.

"The new facility provides a far greater degree of individual privacy and independence, and is designed to accommodate changing health care and support needs as client's age or deteriorate.

"Weemala will provide transitional accommodation for Acquired Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury clients from Regional NSW who have completed inpatient rehabilitation but who are awaiting return home due to home modification or community support requirements."

Mrs Skinner said the recent history of Weemala has been, at times, difficult for the residents of Weemala and their families.

"The Royal Rehabilitation Centre and its Board have worked through many changes in policy direction under the former government which contributed to a degree of uncertainty about the security of future funding arrangements," Mrs Skinner said.

"I congratulate the resilience and perseverance of both the residents and their families and the Board and Management of Royal Rehab."

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