

27 November 2019

NEW DIALYSIS UNIT SET TO OPEN AT DUBBO HOSPITAL

Dialysis patients will soon receive treatment in a new, expanded unit as part of the NSW Government's \$150 million Dubbo Hospital Redevelopment Stages 3 and 4.

The recently completed Dialysis Unit provides the extra space needed to deliver this life-saving service to more patients from regional and remote areas of Western NSW.

Today, Chief Executive of the Western NSW Local Health District, Scott McLachlan, joined hospital staff and the Redevelopment project team for a traditional Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony performed by Lewis Burns to cleanse the new unit before patients move in.

"Today is a significant milestone for Dubbo Hospital which is undergoing a major transformation to provide the highest quality healthcare for decades to come," Mr McLachlan said.

"Patients can spend up to 15 hours per week receiving dialysis treatment, and this bright and modern facility at Dubbo Hospital will significantly improve their experience."

The Dialysis Unit, which has been built above the Extended Day Surgery Unit includes:

- 14 dialysis chairs
- Two training rooms
- Two consultation rooms
- An expansion zone to allow for four more dialysis chairs.

The hospital is currently carrying out an extensive operational commissioning process to prepare the new unit to receive its first patients on Monday 9 December.

Hospital General Manager, Debbie Bickerton, is counting down the days until the move.

"Construction on the Dialysis Unit started earlier this year and we're thrilled to be able to open before Christmas," Ms Bickerton said.

"This timely opening is testament to all the hard work by the builders and project team, and the extensive planning and preparation by staff to ensure we're ready to go."

Once dialysis patients and staff have moved into the new facility, work can start on the \$35 million Western Cancer Centre, which will be constructed on the location of the old Dialysis Unit and old operating theatres on the western side of the campus.

The NSW Government has invested more than \$10 billion since 2011 to build, upgrade and redevelop hospitals and health facilities across NSW. An additional \$10.1 billion is being invested over the next four years to continue current projects and start upgrading or building a further 29 hospitals and health facilities.

-Ends-