

30 January 2019

ABORIGINAL SMOKING CEREMONY MARKS OPENING OF NEW NEPEAN CANCER CARE CENTRE CLINIC ROOMS

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Chief Executive, Kay Hyman, joined hospital staff and community members for an Aboriginal smoking ceremony on Wednesday 30 January to cleanse new clinic rooms before the doors open to patients on Monday 04 February. The new patient clinic rooms are part of the Nepean Hospital's major expansion and upgrade of hospital and community-based services.

The NSW Government has committed \$1 billion towards the Nepean Redevelopment including \$576 million for Stage 1 and \$450 million for Stage 2.

Nepean Hospital General Manager, Brett Williams, says the new clinic rooms not only provide a contemporary consultation space for patients and staff, but also releases space for a major expansion of chemotherapy services.

"As part of Stage 1, the Nepean Cancer Care Centre is doubling its chemotherapy treatment spaces from 15 to 30 and getting a third radiation therapy bunker.

"The new clinic rooms are the first phase of construction and will be followed by the completion of the chemotherapy treatment spaces and additional radiation therapy bunker later in the year," Mr Williams said.

Mrs Hyman said the expansion of the Nepean Cancer Care Centre will also help to meet the current demands for cancer treatment in Western Sydney.

"This significant expansion and upgrade of cancer services is a great result for our community because residents will have improved access to high-quality cancer treatment," said Mrs Hyman.

In addition to the Nepean Cancer Care Centre project, construction of the new Barber Avenue multi-storey car park is also well underway and due for completion mid-2019. Work is expected to start on the new 14-storey clinical tower soon.

The new clinical tower will include:

- A new and expanded Emergency Department
- More than 12 new operating theatres
- 18 birthing suites in new accommodation, an increase of 10
- A new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- More than 200 overnight beds in new accommodation
- A new rooftop helipad.

The clinical tower is scheduled for completion in 2021.

ENDS