



# Building to start next year

BY MADELAINE WONG

LIVERPOOL Hospital was once made up of tents but last week the NSW Government announced a \$740 million commitment in upgrades and an advanced research precinct to be complete by 2026.

A week after the 2018 NSW Budget was announced, Premier Gladys Berejiklian toured the hospital to get a glimpse before construction.

The hospital will also benefit from extra nurses, midwives, doctors, allied health workers, paramedics and ambulance call-centre staff as part of a \$1 billion state-wide boost.

The Minister for Health Brad Hazzard, Liverpool Hospital general manager Karen McMenamin and MP Melanie Gibbons joined the premier.

After the tour we had a short interview with the premier.

**What did you learn from your visit today?**

**Premier:** I knew it was a great announcement but I didn't anticipate how well it was received and I want to thank Melanie Gibbons and all the hospital staff in letting her know what's required.

When you have a strong budget you're able to put money where it's needed most and this is a growing

community with growing needs. I know now with the new research precinct, it will attract a lot of young professionals who will choose this place to work.

We make it part of standard practice that staff and hospital community have input along the way to make sure the design makes the hospital as functional and future-proof as possible.

**What convinced you to commit?**

**Premier:** It didn't take a lot of convincing. I've been hearing for the need to upgrade this hospital for a couple of years.

**When are the first changes expected to be made?**

**Premier:** As soon as possible. The money's in the bank and the plans are ready.

I'm anticipating serious construction will start next year. But this year we'll start planning and development. I'd also like part of the construction to start this year.

When there are opportunities to bring it forward we will but the priority for us it

to make sure we do upgrades as soon as possible without interfering with patient care. When you see the oncology services and pediatric services, which I had an opportunity to see this morning, we know the demand is almost at capacity and we want to avoid people travelling even further.

**It was announced in the budget 950 nurses and midwives will come to hospitals across NSW. How many will come to Liverpool?**

**Premier:** About a third will come to Western Sydney and that's where the growth is. Since we've been in Government we've increased nurses, paramedics and support staff by 11,000 and about 1000 nurses every year.



**Liverpool Champion, Sydney**

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