



# MEDIA STATEMENT

THE HON VERITY FIRTH MP

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment  
Minister for Women / Minister for Science and Medical Research  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)

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## **NSW SET TO CAPTURE GREATER SHARE OF GLOBAL CLINICAL TRIALS INDUSTRY**

NSW patients will have greater access to the latest breakthrough treatments for cancer and other illnesses, with a lemma Government strategy to bring a greater share of the \$10 billion global clinical trials industry to the State.

Minister for Science and Medical Research, Verity Firth, has today opened a new \$1 million NSW Clinical Trials Business Development Centre, designed to make NSW an international hub of clinical trials activity.

“This is about putting NSW on the international map of clinical trials activity and bringing the newest and best treatments to patients here at home, first” Ms Firth said.

“The new Centre will connect the world’s pharmaceutical companies and research centres to NSW experts in the design, management and analysis of clinical trials.

“The Centre will be directed by Dr Catherine Bourgeois, an internationally respected researcher with over 20 years of experience in the field.”

In 2004, the NSW Government set an ambitious target to have 10% of new cancer patients enrolling in high quality clinical trials by 2010. By 2006, the number of enrolments had jumped from 2.7% of all cancer patients to 5.3% – a 94% increase in just two years.

This increase was the result of a \$68 million investment to help NSW cancer researchers hire staff, compete for major national and international grants and purchase vital equipment.

“A recent global audit found that NSW ranks fourth in per capita investment on cancer research and development – well ahead of the European Union and behind only the United States, UK and Sweden,” Ms Firth said.

“The new Centre is the next step in our efforts to bring more clinical trials to our shores.”

Ms Firth said NSW had a strong competitive advantage in the clinical trails market, stemming from:

- well-equipped modern teaching hospitals,
- highly skilled health professionals,
- strong intellectual property laws,
- greater reliability in NSW than in the US, Japan or Western Europe, with 80% of locally conducted trials completed on time,
- cost, with the average cost of conducting a clinical trial in NSW being US\$4,000 (compared to US\$6,000 in the UK; US\$6,700 in the United States; and US\$18,000 in Japan),
- treatment and regulatory standards that meet US and European requirements.

“It’s not surprising that many of the world’s leading pharmaceutical companies have already chosen to base their Australian headquarters here in Sydney,” said Ms Firth.

The NSW Clinical Trials Business Development Centre will begin a major international campaign in June at the BIO International Convention in the United States, which brings together the world’s pharmaceutical leaders, researchers and investors in clinical trials.

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