

Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism
Minister for the Hunter
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)



Tuesday 28 July, 2009

NSW scientific research enhanced with new facilities at the University of Western Sydney

NSW's reputation for global leadership in groundbreaking scientific research was reinforced today with the launch of new \$1 million facilities at the University of Western Sydney.

Minister for Science and Medical Research Jodi McKay said the University's new Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer (SIMS) facilities will enable scientists to perform powerful molecular analysis of any material.

"This is an exciting development for scientific research in NSW and in Australia," Ms McKay said.

"The applications for use of the SIMS are wide, from helping forensic scientists accurately identify samples from a crime scene to protecting our unique environment by analysing pollutants found in our wildlife.

"Its location in Western Sydney will allow scientists to perform internationally competitive research without expensive travel costs and builds on our already strong reputation as an international centre of metrology."

Ms McKay said the new facility includes a laboratory for specimen handling, a viewing area, lab space for visiting researchers and offices for staff managing the facility.

"This \$1 million investment by the University of Western Sydney is an excellent example of the kind of globally relevant research we undertake in NSW," Ms McKay said.

"It aligns perfectly with the NSW Government's commitment to building our research capacity to strengthen our position as Australia's clever State.

"This commitment was outlined at a recent forum hosted by the NSW Government, designed to bring together university, business and government sectors to find new ways to tackle priority issues for our State.

"This new SIMS facility also complements our recent announcement of a \$17 million Knowledge Fund, which is designed to provide NSW universities with the resources they need to pursue essential research funds from government and non government sources.

"This funding is crucial and strengthens collaboration between universities, government and business to enhance our communities, develop innovative industries and protect our environment for the future."

Media contact: Hayley Thomas 0427 299 446