

Jodi McKay

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



Embargoed until 3.00pm Friday February 6, 2009

\$10M refurbishment of the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research

Minister for Science and Medical Research Jodi McKay will officially unveil a \$10 million refurbishment of the world-renowned Woolcock Institute of Medical Research in Glebe today.

Ms McKay said the NSW Government was pleased to contribute \$5 million to the design and fit-out of the new facilities as well as \$2.9 million to support the Institute's research efforts into lung disease and sleep disorders.

"The Woolcock Institute is an Australian leader in research into the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of respiratory diseases and sleep disorders and is considered one of the world's top six institutes of its kind," Ms McKay said.

"The new facilities officially opened today will significantly enhance the Institute's research capacity to study conditions including asthma, allergies, sleep disorders, cystic fibrosis and lung disease.

"Respiratory diseases are a major cause of disease, deaths and hospitalisation in NSW and research has proven sleep apnea can be a killer.

"Prevention is better than cure and developing world class facilities like this is a smart investment in a healthier future and ultimately lower healthcare costs."

Ms McKay said some of the Woolcock Institute's new facilities include:

- 18-bed diagnostic laboratory
- lung physiology and exercise physiology testing labs
- education facility with capacity for up to 240 people
- early phase clinical trials unit to test new medications
- Australia's first large scale 'Time Isolation Research Unit' to allow researchers to study patients over long periods in controlled settings
- 'chronobiology lab' to measure breathing and brain activity during sleep

"These facilities are unique and will complement Sydney's medical research infrastructure," Ms McKay said.

"They will accommodate the Institute's fast growing research, clinical practice and education programs and contribute to a better understanding of medical conditions as well as new treatments and prevention methods.

"Importantly, the new research and teaching facility will support the translation of research from the laboratory bench to patient bedsides."

The Woolcock Institute is also an example of a medical research institute successfully building strong partnerships with industry, universities, philanthropy and government.

The new Glebe Point Road home for the Woolcock Institute has been leased on a long-term basis from the University of Sydney.

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