



23 February 2007

## MINISTER OPENS RYLSTONE AMBULANCE STATION

State Plan Priority S1: Improved access to quality health care  
State Plan Priority F5: Reduced avoidable hospital admissions

Minister for Health Mr John Hatzistergos today officially opened the Rylstone Ambulance Station with Member for Bathurst Gerard Martin.

Mr Hatzistergos said the \$800,000 new ambulance station showed the NSW Government's commitment to providing essential health services to the people of NSW with the best hospital and pre-hospital care in the country.

"The new station, located on the same site as the Rylstone Multi Purpose Service, has a staff of five and accommodates two modern ambulances less than two years old, including a specialised ambulance for rough terrain," Mr Hatzistergos said.

The new Rylstone Ambulance Station features:

- station manager's office,
- general staff office area,
- large locker room,
- modern shower and toilet facilities,
- modern style motel accommodation for relief officers,
- large combined store and meal room, and
- area for clinical supplies.

"Rylstone ambulance officers respond to over 50 jobs each month.

"There is no doubt that attending emergency calls can be very stressful and I know I can speak on behalf of the people of NSW in offering my thanks to the five Rylstone ambulance officers for the lifesaving work they perform.

"I congratulate both the communities of Kandos and Rylstone who agreed to move the station to Rylstone as the best location to serve the entire community; I understand this was an emotive decision.

"The Ambulance Station is now located on the same site as the Rylstone MPS which opened in 2004 and offers emergency, acute and residential aged care services as well as some diagnostic, allied health and primary and community based services.

"I'd like to recognise the work of local member Gerard Martin who fought hard to bring these new and essential health services to the communities of Rylstone and Kandos," he said.

Member for Bathurst Gerard Martin welcomed the opening of the new ambulance station.

"This has been a big boost for the communities of both Rylstone and Kandos and the people living in the surrounding district," Mr Martin said.

“Staff at the Ambulance Station respond to calls and provide emergency pre-hospital care over an area of around 5000 square kilometres.

“I have fought hard to bring new health services to this area specifically tailored to meet the needs of this community and it is wonderful to be officially opening the new ambulance station today,” he said.

While in Rylstone Mr Hatzistergos and Mr Martin also inspected the site where the *Rylstone HealthOne NSW* will be built.

“These services bring together GPs, and other community health workers, allied health and other medical professionals employed by the NSW Government in ‘one stop shops’ outside the hospital environment,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Mr Hatzistergos said the lemma Government was providing a massive investment in health infrastructure and essential services to give the people of NSW redeveloped and upgraded hospitals and health facilities, along with state-of-the-art medical equipment.

“This financial year the lemma Government is investing \$633 million to redevelop, upgrade and refurbish public hospitals and health facilities across NSW - part of a four-year program totalling around \$2 billion,” he said.

**Media contact:            Simon Lees            0411 127 903**