



Funding boost for Ambulance Service of NSW

19 June 2007

The NSW Government is investing \$316 million in the Ambulance Service of NSW in 2007/08 to deliver world-class clinical care across the State, Minister for Health Reba Meagher said today.

“This year’s allocation is \$20.7 million more than last year, an increase of 7 per cent, and part of a record statewide health budget of \$12.5 billion,” Ms Meagher said.

“This budget provides funding for the third year of the Metropolitan Strategy that will see a total of 250 new ambulance officers recruited by 2008/09.

“The additional funding in this year’s budget will improve patient care, build new ambulance stations, enhance communication systems and increase training for officers caring for people with a mental illness.”

NSW Government strategies to boost ambulance officer numbers have already seen the number of frontline on-road Ambulance staff increase to 2,813 in March 2007, an increase of 12 per cent since July 2004.

The 2007/08 Budget contains a number of major new capital works projects including:

- \$2.2 million over two years for new ambulance stations at Nelson Bay and Deniliquin
- \$1.3 million over four years to upgrade the Ambulance Computer Aided Dispatch System to improve access to case information and provide ambulance officers at the scene of an emergency with instant information about the availability of appropriate clinical services and recent ambulance arrivals at hospitals
- \$14.4 million statewide to redevelop stations including at Auburn, Dubbo, Liverpool, Port Macquarie and Ryde as well as fleet and equipment upgrades

Ms Meagher said this record funding for the Ambulance Service of NSW delivers on the Lemna Government’s State Plan priorities to improve access to health care services and reduce avoidable hospital admissions.

The NSW Ambulance Service will implement a number of specific programs over the coming year to help with the delivery of ambulance care across NSW, including:

- An extended and expanded care program to help reduce avoidable hospital admissions by using ambulance officers to provide safe initial treatment and then a referral for follow-up care
- Additional clinical training for officers responding to mental health emergencies
- Enhanced Electronic Bookings System for the transportation of non-emergency cases to increase use

“The Lemna Government’s ongoing investment in the Ambulance Service of NSW builds on the outstanding care provided by our ambulance officers, giving them more resources to meet patients’ needs,” Ms Meagher said.
