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## **AMBULANCE SERVICE NSW STAFF AWARDED FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION**

NSW Minister for Health Reba Meagher today congratulated the winners and finalists from Ambulance Service NSW in the 2007 NSW Health Awards held last night.

“The NSW Health Awards provide a valuable opportunity each year to recognise outstanding contributions of health care workers from across the state,” Ms Meagher said.

“The award entries reflect the innovation, ingenuity and energy of a wide range of staff in the NSW Health system.

“Each new initiative was designed by an individual or team of health professionals committed to improving the quality of care for patients and the way in which it is delivered to the community,” Ms Meagher said.

Ms Meagher said the winners and finalists awarded had been selected from more than 120 entries.

“For the first time this year individual hospitals have also been awarded for improving performance in emergency departments and surgery based on statewide benchmarks,” Ms Meagher said.

The Ambulance Service NSW, in partnership with the Hunter New England Area Health Service, won the **Clinical Excellence Commission Award for Improvement in Patient Safety** for the ‘PAST: Pre-hospital Acute Stroke Triage’ project.

This project at John Hunter Hospital looked to improve stroke patient triage by providing rapid access to organised stroke care and ‘clot busting’ thrombolysis – resulting in better improvements in long-term outcome.

The project was also a finalist in the **Build regional and other partnerships for health** category.

“I am truly inspired by all of these excellent initiatives and congratulate all of this year’s winners and finalists,” Ms Meagher said.

“The NSW Government is committed to providing health professionals with the resources and support they need to facilitate ongoing improvements in clinical quality, safety and performance in our hospitals.

“I believe the dedication, innovation and teamwork of health staff combined with this year’s record \$12.5 billion investment in health services – an additional \$831 million or 7.1 per cent increase on last year - will ensure the NSW health system remains among the best in the world,” Ms Meagher said.

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