

Tuesday 27 June 2017

\$4.6 million expansion at Milton Ulladulla Hospital officially opens

Milton Ulladulla Hospital has welcomed its first patients to the newly constructed Renal and Palliative Care Unit; the \$4.6 million expansion to the hospital officially opened today.

ISLHD Chief Executive, Margot Mains, said the much anticipated facility is a hugely welcome addition to the District's network of services.

"Today's official opening is a significant milestone for the local community. We know that demand for renal and palliative services will continue to increase as the local community ages; being able to receive this care closer to home will be a welcome relief to many," she said.

Work on this project commenced in mid last year with a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony carried out ahead of construction.

The expansion includes a dedicated Renal Unit with capacity for seven dialysis chairs.

ISLHD's Clinical Co-Director Renal Services, Professor Maureen Lonergan said the hospital can now deliver a higher level of care locally for those living with chronic renal conditions.

"Being able to remove the element of distance and extended travel for treatment is significant for the local community. Patients can now receive dialysis closer to home and also have greater access to specialist clinics and consultation with dedicated renal physicians, nurse practitioners and expert chronic care nurses," said Professor Lonergan.

The hospital expansion also includes a purpose-built Palliative Care space with family rooms and respite areas.

"Palliative Care services are a hugely important component of any health service and the addition of this area will enable local families and their loved ones to be more comfortable during what can be an incredibly challenging time," said Ms Mains.

"The Hospital has received tremendous support for this project from the very beginning. We are incredibly grateful to the many volunteers, fundraising groups and community members who've contributed to making this project what it is," she said.

The facility was officially opened by Member for South Coast Shelley Hancock and included an opportunity to thank Milton Ulladulla Hospital Auxiliary and the Milton Outpatients Appeal Committee for their fundraising efforts toward the project, which combined totalled more than \$800,000.

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