

# Education centre boost for hospital and region

DENICE BARNES

A MEDICAL training centre for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals will be built at Wyong Hospital after the Federal Government announced \$4.5 million in funding on Tuesday.

Health Parliamentary Secretary Mark Butler and Dobell Federal Labor MP Craig Thomson delivered the joint announcement to build an integrated education centre.

Medical, nursing and allied health students will be supported in the training centre which will include disciplines of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physiotherapy and podiatry.

Northern Sydney Central Coast Health, Newcastle University and New England University contributed funds towards the centre.

Central Coast Health's teaching and research unit director Martin Veysey said the expanded training facilities would be a boost to the medical workforce in the Hunter and Central Coast regions.

"More training opportunities ultimately puts more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals on the ground," Prof Veysey said. "Today's important



Mark Butler, Craig Thomson and Central Coast Health general manager Matt Hanrahan with Martin Veysey and director of nursing Jan Tweedie at Wyong Hospital.

Picture: WAIDE MAGUIRE

announcement will help make that a reality."

Mr Butler said Wyong Hospital was already a significant 300-bed facility.

"This new investment will enable Wyong Hospital to become an important teaching centre at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels," he said

The project will provide teach-

ing rooms, a library, computer and stimulation rooms and office space for academic staff.

There will be training for indigenous students and graduates will be encouraged to work in rural and remote areas.

It will also mean the expansion of the joint medical program to 20 undergraduate medical students at the hospital by 2012.

The funding has been provided under the Government's \$90 million innovative clinical teaching and training grants program.



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