



media release

Corner Hawkesbury Road & Hainsworth Street, Westmead NSW 2145

the
children's
hospital at Westmead



New upgrade for Hall Ward

New outdoor therapeutic equipment and a more calming and welcoming environment that enhances comfort, privacy and connection to nature will be the key aspects of a \$460,000 investment by the NSW Government into The Children's Hospital at Westmead's mental health ward.

The eight-bed acute child and adolescent mental health Hall Ward is the beneficiary of the upgrade which is part of a NSW Government \$20 million boost to improve the therapeutic environment of mental health facilities across the state.

Hall Ward Nurse Unit Manager Anna Lester said the investment at Hall Ward would see a new and improved outdoor area with more recreational facilities and a significant modification to the look and feel of the ward's common areas and patient bedrooms.

"The changes will make the environment safer, but more homely and familiar and offer variety of spaces for more physical exercises, group activities and quiet contemplation," Ms Lester said.

"We hope the improvements and proposed changes will measurably reduce anxiety and incidents of challenging behaviour and strengthen coping resources as well as fostering positive experience – which in turn improve outcomes and reduce the time children need to spend in the ward in the first place.

"It can often be a challenging time for our patients and we are always looking at ways to make the time they spend in Hall Ward as comfortable, and welcoming as possible."

Member for Parramatta Geoff Lee welcomed the funding announcement and said it is the first investment by the NSW Government as part of the recently announced \$700 million state-wide Mental Health Infrastructure Program, set to transform mental health care across NSW.

"We want to support the local community and these enhancements at Westmead will offer our children and young people the best healing environment possible for their recovery from mental health issues," Geoff said.

It is anticipated the improvements at The Children's Hospital at Westmead Hall Ward will be completed by midway through 2019.