



## Australian Government

### **Fiona Nash**

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

### **Senator The Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO**

Senator for New South Wales

# Joint Media Release

Thursday, 8 December 2016

## **Sod turned for carers' accommodation in Bega**

- **First sod turned on the \$901,000 Carers' Accommodation at South East Regional Hospital in Bega**
- **Project will provide on-site subsidised accommodation and support services for patients and relatives**
- **Accommodation will keep regional families closer and reduce financial impact during times of stress**

The first sod has been turned for the Carers' Accommodation at the South East Regional Hospital in Bega, which will provide subsidised accommodation for patients, carers, friends and relatives.

Minister for Regional Development, Fiona Nash, said the new accommodation project would reduce the distance families and friends need to travel to support their relatives in hospital, providing peace of mind to patients.

"Having a loved one who is unwell can be a taxing experience, but the added stress of travelling and finding accommodation is particularly hard on any family," Minister Nash said.

"Patients will also have access to the accommodation if they need somewhere to settle in before arriving at hospital, or a place to stay after surgery."

Senator for New South Wales, The Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO, said stage one of the three stage project would deliver six accommodation units, catering for an estimated 1,750 overnight stays each year.

"The second and third stages will add an additional 12 rooms, communal kitchen facilities, and dining and lounge area," Senator Sinodinos said.

"The Carers' Accommodation complements the new jointly funded \$187 million hospital redevelopment completed earlier this year, which has proved vital for families across South-East New South Wales, ensuring patients don't have to travel to Canberra for certain health services."

Stage one of the \$901,000 project is being jointly funded by the Coalition Government (\$450,000), Bega Cheese (\$250,000), Bendigo Bank (\$65,000), EC Blomfield Holdings (\$50,000), Lions Club of Tathra (\$50,000), Rotary Club of Bega (\$10,000), Rotary Club of Pambula (\$10,000), Rotary Club of Merimbula (\$5,000), Eden Lionesses (\$5,000), Lions Club of Pambula-Merimbula (\$5,000) and CWA Pambula – Merimbula Branch (\$1,000).

### **Media Contacts**

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<b>For Minister Nash:</b>	<b>Whil Prendergast</b>	<b>0427 672 815</b>
<b>For Senator Sinodinos:</b>	<b>Lance Northey</b>	<b>0447 568 061</b>