

Premier Keneally supports the ESTIA FOUNDATION

NSW Premier Kristina Keneally today joined His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos at the ESTIA Foundation's Fundraising Dinner - reaffirming the NSW Government's support for ESTIA and praising the service for its excellent work helping young people with disabilities.

"ESTIA is a non-profit organisation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia and performs fantastic work providing respite care around the clock for young adults with disabilities and their families," Premier Keneally said.

"Respite houses at Gladesville and Roselands help more than 100 families from all cultural backgrounds

across the Sydney area with much needed respite services and support networks.

"I congratulate the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia on their outstanding philanthropic service and all the volunteers and families who contribute to its success.

In October, the NSW Government was proud to provide ESTIA with a \$25,000 grant for a new hydrotherapy bath for clients with cerebral palsy.

The hydrotherapy bath offers a daily form of exercise that clients would otherwise be unable to undertake without risking serious injury.

"For many families, programs run by groups such as ESTIA provide more



than just respite care; they provide invaluable friendships and support systems," Premier Keneally said.

Linking separated parents with financial support

Taking control of the family budget would have been a common New Year's resolution for many Australians, and this year there is plenty of support available to make the goal a reality.

The Child Support Agency (CSA) and the Australian Financial Counselling and Credit Reform Association (AFCCRA) have joined forces to offer coordinated support to separated parents to help them successfully manage their finances.

Today Hank Jongen from the Human Services Portfolio and Fiona Guthrie from AFCCRA announced a new factsheet, Are you experiencing financial hardship after separation?, has been developed to link people with support agencies that can help them in difficult times.

"It's during the early months of the New Year that some people really begin to feel the effects of all the spending we do at Christmas and the costs of kids going back to school. It's important that parents know there is help available," Mr Jongen said.

"This new factsheet is really useful as it connects our customers to financial counsellors, CSA support services and materials, and other organisations separated parents may find useful - such as legal aid."

The CSA's partnership with AFCCRA is resulting in real benefits for people. "We've had a lot of positive feedback from clients who have been directed to a financial counsellor from the Child Support Agency," said Ms Guthrie. "Financial counsellors are a good starting point to help separated parents get back on top of their financial situation. We can help people prioritise bills and negotiate workable payment arrangements with creditors. We give people information and support and help them understand their options.

"This factsheet is great and will make it easier for everyone to find services that can help them."

The new factsheet can be downloaded from www.csa.gov.au or www.afccra.org/forconsumers.htm

PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL

\$31.5 million for new comprehensive cancer and blood disorder centre

Premier Kristina Keneally announced the NSW Government will provide \$31.5 million for the construction of a new \$47 million Comprehensive Cancer and Blood Disorder Centre at Prince of Wales Hospital.

Local fundraisers have raised an additional \$15 million for the centre and CanTeen has provided \$712,000 funding.

The centre will provide services for up to 30,000 patients each year and will help meet the anticipated 38 per cent increase in demand for cancer services at Prince of Wales Hospital by 2021.

The centre will bring ambulatory, outpatient and radiotherapy services currently across eight sites on the hospital campus into one centralised new building.

Construction is anticipated to begin in mid 2012 and will support approximately 185 jobs.

"Based on current trends, more than 39,000 people

will be told they have cancer in 2011," Ms Keneally said.

"This state of the art Comprehensive Cancer and Blood Disorder Centre will bring together clinical and support services to help patients through their treatment.

"The centre will also link with the Lowy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales to ensure new cancer treatments and expertise is fast tracked to patients."

The Comprehensive Cancer and Blood Disorder Centre will include:

- Adolescent radiotherapy;
- Allied health services;
- Breast cancer services;
- Cancer genetic services;
- Cancer outreach services;
- Cancer registry;
- Clinical trials;
- Diagnostic imaging;
- Gynaecological oncology;
- Haematology;
- Integrated ambulatory services;
- Medical oncology services;

- Palliative care services;
- Pathology services;
- Patient and carer support;
- Pharmaceutical services;
- Radiation oncology services; and
- Surgical cancer services.

Member for Maroubra, Michael Daley said: "Last year, Prince of Wales Hospital treated over 3000 new cancer patients, providing 4,680 in-patient separations and more than 50,000 outpatient services."

"I have been pushing for integrated cancer and blood disorder services for the region and I am delighted this new centre will be located at Prince of Wales Hospital for local families.

"This \$31.5 million investment by the NSW Government will ensure Prince of Wales Hospital can continue its cutting edge work and provide a full range of cancer care services from the single state-of-the-art location.

"The centre will also enhance operational efficiency

and provide a one stop shop for patients - reducing travel time between vital services."

Member for Coogee, Paul Pearce said: "Integrating cancer and blood disorder services from eight locations on the Prince of Wales campus into one comprehensive centre will make life easier for patients and their families."

"Prince of Wales Hospital plays a major role in NSW delivering cancer genetics, adolescent, thalassaemia and brain cancer services.

"This \$31.5 million investment for the new \$47 million centre demonstrates the NSW Government's support for providing practical and efficient health services and support for NSW families."

The NSW Government will call for tenders for Project Management, Cost Management and Architectural Design this week.

The NSW Government funding will be delivered over three years from 2012 to 2015.

New Treatment Centre for Thalassaemia Patients

The Thalassaemia Society of NSW has today welcomed Premier Kristina Keneally's announcement of \$31.5 million to build a new Blood Disorder Centre at Prince of Wales Hospital. This Centre will provide world class treatment for life long sufferers of Thalassaemia, and other blood disorder diseases. "This is a great initiative and one that we have been campaigning for, for a long time." Mrs Nancy Lucich, Co-ordi-

nator of the Thalassaemia Centre said today.

"These types of facilities exist overseas and in other States and now NSW has one too." This is a great relief for Thalassaemia patients across NSW who rely on life saving treatment to ensure they live normal, healthy lives.

"This new Centre is a big step in ensuring that we get world class, one-stop treatment facility, where we can

receive the attention of specialised doctors while we get treatment. "I want to thank everyone who made this possible. For a long time we have been trying to get his Blood Disorder Centre up and running."

"With good quality treatment, sufferers of Thalassaemia are able to lead normal lives. Professor Linderman Stated. "For many patients the Prince of Whales has been a second home to them. It gives us

great joy to see this Centre becoming a reality that will reduce the hassles of travel and treatment." "This state of the art Comprehensive Cancer and Blood Disorder Centre will bring together clinical and support services to help patients through their treatment. "The centre will also enhance operational efficiency and provide a one stop shop for patients - reducing travel time between vital services."