

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2016**

### **PARTNERSHIPS TO DELIVER HOSPITAL UPGRADES SOONER**

- The NSW Government has invited Expressions of Interest from non-government hospital operators to deliver redevelopments of Maitland, Wyong, Goulburn and Shellharbour hospitals and to support the delivery of services at the redeveloped Bowral Hospital.
- These innovate partnerships will deliver upgraded hospitals with more services and choices for care which will be provided at the highest standards. The NSW Government will continue to cover the public patients who will receive free hospital treatment just as they do now.
- The NSW Government has announced more than \$5 billion for new health infrastructure projects during this term and is on track to deliver its election commitments.
- More information on the EOI process can be found at the NSW eTendering website: <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au>

### **CALLINAN REPORT RELEASED**

- The NSW Government has immediately released Hon Ian Callinan AC QC's independent statutory review of the state's liquor laws to the public after receiving it.
- The review is the result of seven months' worth of consultation with the public and a wide group of stakeholders including industry, community advocacy groups, transport operators, health professionals and law enforcement agencies.
- The report states that the lockout laws have made Kings Cross and the Sydney CBD safer and that they are valid – however, the following changes could be considered:

- Relax the 1.30am lockout and 3am last drinks measures for live entertainment venues to a 2am lockout and 3.30am last drinks for a two-year trial period.
  - Extend the state-wide sale of takeaway alcohol from 10pm to 11pm.
  - Extend the home delivery of alcohol from 10pm to midnight.
- The report, including its conclusions, is available online at [www.liquorlawreview.justice.nsw.gov.au](http://www.liquorlawreview.justice.nsw.gov.au)

## **\$115 FUNDING BOOST TO MAKE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MORE AFFORDABLE**

- The NSW Government is cutting preschool fees by an average of 30% to encourage more parents to enrol their children in early childhood education, in what will be the largest single preschool fee reduction in NSW history.
- This \$115 million funding boost will enable more children to participate in 600 hours – or about 15 hours per week – of early childhood education in community preschools and long day care centres.
- Starting from 1 January 2017, community preschools across the state who enrol four and five year old children for at least 600 hours in the year before school will receive increased subsidies from the NSW Government – this will enable preschools to reduce fees by an average of 30% per child which will be passed onto parents in the form of reduced fees.
- The NSW Government has listened to the sector and to parents and is committed to making a quality childhood education affordable for all.

## **PROVIDE ‘FEEDBACK2GO’ ON YOUR DAILY COMMUTE**

- A new mobile phone app will allow public transport customers to report incidents and provide feedback on the services they travel on.
- ‘Feedback2Go’ lets users provide feedback on trains, buses, ferries, light rail, roads or maritime in a number of categories including the reliability of their public transport service, safety and cleanliness.
- Once feedback is submitted, customers can choose if they would like to receive a follow up response and can also track the status of their report through the app.
- The ‘Feedback2Go’ app is part of the ongoing Future Transport program aimed at unlocking the latest technology and trends to transform NSW.

## **NSW CONTINUES TO HAVE LOWEST JOBLESS RATE**

- The ABS has confirmed NSW has had the lowest unemployment rate of any state for 15 straight months.
- Data shows that the unemployment rate in NSW fell 0.2% to 5% in August – the lowest in the nation – while the next lowest rate was in Victoria at 5.5%.
- The ABS employment report comes after Westpac-Melbourne Institute confirmed NSW consumers are the most optimistic in the nation.

## **TAFE TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY CENTRE NOW OPEN**

- The Wetherill Park Transport Technology Centre – one of the largest and most modern industry training facilities – has been officially opened.
- The state of the art facility will provide a massive boost to training and career opportunities for people in Western Sydney and beyond with nine brand new laboratories and over 4,000 square metres of workshop space.
- The centre offers a number of course options including light vehicle and heavy vehicle mechanical technology, plant mechanics, automotive electrical technology and speciality automotive courses.

## **YOUNG NSW ENTREPRENEURS BACKED BY \$12M PROGRAM TO BOOST INNOVATION ACROSS THE STATE**

- The NSW Government has announced the \$12 million Boost Program which will connect start-ups and small to medium sized business with qualified professionals, university resources and technology.
- Eleven of the State's leading universities – and the CSIRO – are partnering with the NSW Government to develop a new statewide innovation network giving start-up businesses access to expertise and resources they need to make their idea a success.
- The NSW Government is committed to encouraging entrepreneurs and boosting innovation in cities and regional NSW.
- For more information visit: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/)

## **REVITALISING CENTRAL STATION**

- Central Station - the state's busiest commuter hub - could soon be rejuvenated, putting it on par with some of the grand stations of the world.
- More than 270,000 people use the station daily and in the next two decades that figure is expected to reach around 450,000.
- The first step in the plan will be to get public feedback on ideas to revitalise inside and around Central and to engage industry through an extensive consultation program.
- You can find out more or submit an idea for a better Central at [yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/centralstation](http://yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/centralstation).

## **TREASURES OF THREE MUSEUMS FIND A NEW HOME**

- A \$34 million investment from the NSW Government has enabled collections from three of Australia's leading museums to be put on permanent public display for the first time.
- The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, the Australian Museum and Sydney Living Museums have collaborated to open the new Museums Discovery Centre in Castle Hill.
- This new centre features 9,000 square metres of upgraded storage to properly protect these priceless collections and improved display facilities to give the public better access.
- Visit [museumsdiscoverycentre.com](http://museumsdiscoverycentre.com) for more information.

## **SYDNEY TO HOST HISTORIC WOMEN'S GAMES FOR 2017 RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP**

- In an historic first, the 2017 Women's Rugby League World Cup will be held concurrently with the men's tournament, with pool matches and semi-finals to be played at Southern Cross Group Stadium in Cronulla.
- Six women's teams will come from three continents (England), North America (Canada) and Oceania (Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea) with the final team to be confirmed after the Pacific Qualifying Series next month.