Health training gets boost

SAN CENTRE TO TRAIN 40 DOCTORS, 120 NURSES A YEAR

Tracey Findlay

THE Sydney Adventist Hospital has celebrated a significant milestone with the opening of its Clinical Education Centre.

The centre will help tackle health service staff shortages by providing side-by-side training for doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

"This education centre is our new frontier," hospital chief executive officer Leon Clark said at Friday's opening ceremony.

"We are honoured to be able to provide a place for future generations of Australia's healthcare professionals to learn, to heal and to teach," Dr Clark said.

"Different healthcare students ... training alongside each other will mirror the interaction that is critical at the bedside."

The new centre is a partnership between the hospital, Sydney University and Avondale College of Higher Education and was funded by Health Workforce Australia (HWA), the NSW Government, Adventist HealthCare and private philanthropy.

The centre was built in just 16 months.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner said it was a great example of what could be achieved when the private and public sectors worked together.

"It's a marvellous hospital and fantastic facility – a significant milestone in the history of the San and provision of health workforce in Australia," she said.

The State Government's contribution of $10 million will, in part, go to training junior doctors, a first for a private hospital in NSW.

A further $10 million was provided by HWA, a Federal Government initiative.

By 2016 around 40 doctors and 120 nurses will graduate from the centre each year.

Governor Marie Bashir officially opened the centre.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner, Federal Health Minister Peter Dutton and NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell at the San's Clinical Education Centre opening.