

Minister Jack Snelling

Minister for Health and Ageing
Minister for Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Defence Industries
Minister for Health Industries

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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Nearly a thousand more people get their chemo treatment in the country

More people than ever before are receiving chemotherapy in the country, with treatment numbers at Country Health SA sites increasing across the state.

Health Minister Jack Snelling said there had been a 46 per cent increase in the number of chemotherapy treatments provided at our chemotherapy units in 2013 (3138) when compared to 2012 (2150).

“Undergoing cancer treatment is challenging enough without having to travel for hours to receive treatment,” Mr Snelling said.

“Through establishing new chemotherapy units and enhancing some existing units in country South Australia, more country residents are now able to receive treatment close to home.

“In the past 12 months we’ve opened new chemotherapy units in Clare, Victor Harbor, Naracoorte, Wallaroo, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta, Mount Barker and Gawler.

“We’ve also enhanced existing services in Kangaroo Island, Ceduna and Port Pirie.

“The new chemotherapy unit in Berri at the Riverland Regional Hospital opened this week and new units in Mt Gambier and Port Lincoln are being built as part of wider hospital redevelopments.

“Construction of the \$69 million Regional Cancer Centre in Whyalla, the largest single investment in regional health in South Australia, was also completed in September 2013.”

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock said this had helped make what is a difficult and stressful time easier for country patients and their families.

“We are continuing to see the number of people treated locally in rural areas increase and we expect this upward trend to continue as patients become more aware of their local chemotherapy services,” Mr Brock said.

“It has been wonderful to see these units come to fruition and truly make a difference to the lives of country South Australians.”

“There have been significant increases in chemotherapy treatments at Mt Gambier and Whyalla, with 316 chemotherapy treatments already occurring at those two sites alone during January and February 2014.

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