

Rural Health Centre official opening

FIFTEEN months after the first sod was turned by Federal Minister for Health, Nicola Roxon and Member for New England Tony Windsor, they will be back in town tomorrow to officially open the Gunnedah Rural Health Centre.

Executives from both BHP and Shenhua will also be on hand to celebrate what is a remarkable facility for Gunnedah and a remarkable achievement for the Gunnedah community.

The quest to build the centre has been a "labour of love" for the volunteer committee which has been earnestly supported by the Gunnedah community, with a huge celebration already held when the centre's doors first opened in June.

The Gunnedah community raised more than \$100,000 towards the project and with the announcement in the Federal Government's 2009/10 budget that the GRHC project would receive \$500,000, the concept ceased to be a dream.

The project was given a huge financial boost when Shenhua Watermark Coal donated \$1 million to the project as part of its community funding commitment.

One wing of the new state-of-the-art GP Super Clinic will be named after the company in recognition of its generous contribution.



FEDERAL Minister for Health, Nicola Roxon and Member for New England Tony Windsor will officially open the Gunnedah Rural Health Centre tomorrow at 11.30am.

The \$1 million donated by Shenhua was followed by the \$4.3 million GP Super Clinic – Federal Government Funding and a further \$500,000 donated by BHP Billiton.

An application submitted by BDGP on behalf of GRH Ltd to obtain funding through the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program to fit out the education

centre was successful, with a grant of \$154,057 and a further \$100,000 donated by Santos to go towards the IT fit out for the centre's education wing.

The Manildra Group also donated a further \$50,000.

The official opening will take place at the Gunnedah Rural Health Centre tomorrow morning, from 11.30am.