



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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New England Leads Australia In Medical Innovation

The Independent Member For New England, Tony Windsor, has congratulated the New England Area Health Service (NEAHS), the New England Institute of TAFE, the University of New England and Telstra on their groundbreaking telecommunications project.

Mr Windsor said, "The \$11million dollar project will not only produce real and lasting benefits for the delivery of health services using broadband technology, but also presents enormous educational opportunities for the University of New England and the New England Institute of TAFE."

"Recurrent communications costs using the technology will be reduced from \$1.8m currently to \$1million and savings over recurrent expenditure, including travel savings, equate to a total recurrent savings of \$1m per annum."

"I would also like to congratulate the Chief Executive Officer of the NEAHS, Mr Stuart Schneider, for his vision in relation to this project and the support given to Stuart by the Vice Chancellor of UNE, Ingrid Moses, and TAFE Institute Director, Gary Pollock, as well as their staff for putting together a great project that is leading the way in country NSW."

Mr Windsor said, "I remember when Stuart Schneider first came to Tamworth he spoke of this vision after being involved in setting up a similar project in country Victoria".

"This project is the largest of its kind in Australia and a credit to the initiative of all involved".

Mr Windsor also congratulated Telstra on its successful tender and encouraged the Federal and State Governments to roll out the technology all over country Australia".

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080