

## Media Release

**Frank Sartor**

**Minister for Energy and Utilities  
Minister for Science and Medical Research  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)  
Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts**



16 March 2005

### **OPENING OF BLACK DOG INSTITUTE GIVES NEW HOPE**

Minister for Science and Medical Research, Frank Sartor today opened the new Black Dog Institute building at Prince of Wales Hospital.

The new facility, funded by the Carr Government, will undertake ground-breaking work in detection, treatment and management for people suffering depression and other mood disorders.

“The Black Dog Institute is spearheading efforts to ensure the problems of depression and bipolar disorders, which touch many families in NSW, are confronted head-on”, said Mr Sartor.

“I am proud today to officially open the Institute’s new \$5.2 million stand-alone facility, for which the NSW Government has provided \$4.1 million in capital funding and an additional \$1 million in recurrent funding to support the work carried out here.

“The new building allows us to link together under one roof a productive and innovative research team, new assessment clinical services, education and training for mental health professionals, consumers and families and a new Consumer and Community Resource Centre.

“There is no other mental health facility in the country providing such a linked model”.

An additional \$1.1million to complete work on the new building was raised from grants from the University of NSW and donations from individuals and corporate benefactors.

“The World Health Organisation forecasts that depression will affect up to 20 per cent of the world’s population”, said Mr Sartor.

“Governments and the community must increase efforts to assist people suffering from depression and other mood disorders.

“That is why last week the Government’s Plan for Mental Health Services was announced. This will provide a blueprint for the future delivery of mental health services in emergency settings, hospitals and the community.

“The Black Dog Institute fits perfectly into this plan and provides a holistic approach that focuses on the research and support that must exist alongside acute care”, said Mr Sartor.

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The Black Dog Institute is currently working on a number of projects, including:

- Development of a computerised Mood Assessment Program (MAP) that will give treatment guidelines to assist general practitioners and other health professionals.
- A world first Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation study on severe depression. This non-invasive is an alternative to anti-depressant medication and uses magnetic fields to stimulate the brain via a coil to a patient's head.
- State-of-the-art computer research programs to gain a better understanding of what is happening in the brain.
- Establishment of a Consumer and Community Resource Centre for easier access to information by the community. This includes the Black Dog website, ([www.blackdoginstitute.org.au](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au)), which contains information on research and clinical experience.
- Education and training for General Practitioners, Psychiatrists, Psychologists and other mental health professionals.
- Out-patient clinical assessment strategies.

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