



# Project News

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## \$702 million rebuild begins at RNS

Preparatory work has begun on the first stage of the RNS redevelopment with the closure of Rotary Lodge and the Staff Recreation Centre.

Both buildings are due to be demolished shortly to make way for the new education & research facility.

"There are a number of steps in the process, but it's generally fairly straightforward," said acting Project Director Andrew Bott.

"We will demolish the existing recreation centre and Rotary Lodge buildings in November, then begin clearing and preparing the site.

"This will be followed by the major excavation for the underground services.

"A managing contractor will be appointed in late 2006 to undertake the construction of the new building."

Meanwhile, the planning process will continue with research and education stakeholders.

"The aim is to get the best possible services and facilities, within budget and within the timeframe. We also want to 'future-proof' the building, so that additional floors can be added later if necessary," Andrew said.

"The timing on the education & research building is critical because the construction of the new main hospital building depends on the completion of this first stage."

The new research and education building is expected to be completed by early 2008.

### Minister launches concept plan

NSW Minister for Health John Hatzistergos officially launched the RNS concept plan proposal last month.



*Above: NSW Minister for Health John Hatzistergos, RNS General Manager Mary Bonner, NSCCAHS CEO Dr Stephen Christley and Prof. Michael Field at the launch.*



*Above: John Hatzistergos, Prof. Carol Pollock and Dr Greg Fulcher preview the concept for the new research & education building.*

# Carers settle into new home-away-from-home

## Residents of Royal North Shore Hospital's Rotary Lodge made a smooth transition to new carer accommodation earlier this month.

About 30 people, currently staying at the hospital to be close to critically ill relatives, were transferred to new on-site rooms and rooms at the nearby Greenwich Inn.

"The transition was well planned and went smoothly," said RNS General Manager Mrs Mary Bonner.

"The 31 rooms in Rotary Lodge have been replaced with a combination of on-site and off-site rooms at no additional cost to carers."

The new accommodation includes 11 rooms on site and 20 subsidised rooms at the nearby Greenwich Inn.

This is in addition to two parent rooms in neonatal intensive care and one room on the paediatric ward.

Carers have been very positive about the change.

"Carers in the on-site accommodation settled in very quickly," said acting Accommodation Coordinator Myree McNamara.

"One carer, relocated to the Greenwich Inn, commented that it was the best night's sleep she had ever had - and she loved the breakfast!"

RNS General Manager Mary Bonner said she was impressed with the level of cooperation and understanding shown by carers.

"The \$702 million redevelopment plan for RNS depends on the Rotary Lodge site being vacated," Mrs Bonner said.

"Once Rotary Lodge is demolished, it will allow us to consolidate all our research and education activities into one new facility and free up space in the centre of the site for the new main building.

"Once this was explained to carers, they were very supportive of the need to relocate," she said.

Mrs Bonner confirmed that carer accommodation will be provided on site in the final redevelopment.

"We recognise that the sort of accommodation Rotary Lodge has traditionally provided is a vital part of the acute services at RNSH."

## The Projects

The **Staff Recreation Centre** has closed and the new temporary gym is now open in Vindin House. For more information about local gym offers, pools and tennis courts, visit RNS redevelopment on the intranet or ask the Staff Recreation Centre team.

Schematic design on the new **Research & Education Building** is progressing well. In this phase, user groups review the functional relationships between areas and develop floor plans. Detailed design follows and will be completed in early 2007.

The **consultation phase for the RNS site concept plan** has been completed, with most local residents and staff members indicating they were very accepting of plans to redevelop the site. The feedback will now be provided to the NSW Dept of Planning for consideration in the next step of the approval process.

Some **early planning for the new main hospital building** has begun. Consultation on the location of kitchen, linen, engineering, facilities and maintenance services is being progressed. In the long-term, these services will be located in refurbished space in Building 2 (brown building).