



Project News

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Research & Education construction starts

Bovis Lend Lease has won the contract to construct the new \$61 million Stage 1 Research and Education Building at Royal North Shore.

“The new Research and Education building facility will commence immediately and is the first step in the major redevelopment of the Royal North Shore Hospital site,” said NSW Minister for Health, John Hatzistergos.

“Construction of the new research and education building will ‘unlock’ the centre of the campus for the future development of the new main hospital building.”

Mr Hatzistergos said that the project would provide new construction jobs in the short term and potential employment for additional research staff in the future.

“Under stage 1 of the project around 150 researchers will relocate to the new building, which allows future development opportunity to accommodate up to 500 research staff.

“The building will also accommodate about 60 staff involved in medical, nursing, allied health and continuing education programs,” he said.

Construction is due to be completed in 2008.



Above: Excavation work on the new Research & Education Building and, below, an artist's concept of the new facility. Some minor façade changes have since been made to accommodate potential future links, but the basic shape is clearly defined.



Three consortia short list for PPP

The three groups and their key consortium members have successfully shortlisted for RNS public private partnership project.

"This massive \$702 million redevelopment is the biggest health Public Private Partnership (PPP) project ever carried out in NSW," said NSW Minister for Health, John Hatzistergos.

"It is a major opportunity for the successful consortium to put forward innovative design to deliver high quality health services to improve access to quality health care - a key priority of the NSW Government's State Plan," he said.

The shortlist for PPP tenders has been established following the NSW Government's recent call for expressions of interest for private sector involvement.

The successful tender for the hospital redevelopment will be awarded in early 2008.

The three groups and their key consortium members successfully short listed for the PPP are:

- Plenary Health – Plenary Group, Deutsche Bank, Laing O'Rourke, Honeywell, Medirest and Premier Parking
- InfraShore Partnership – ABN AMRO, Thiess Contractors, Thiess Services and Wilson Parking
- Pinnacle Health Care – Babcock & Brown, Bovis Lend Lease, Spotless and InterPark.

Mr Hatzistergos said under the PPP package, the redeveloped Royal North Shore Hospital will offer a new acute services facility, a Community Health Centre and refurbishment to some existing buildings.

The redevelopment will provide 462 acute beds to complement the 124 beds provided with the recently completed Douglas building, expanded acute mental health and additional chemotherapy and dialysis chairs.

The Projects

- Bulk excavation is continuing on the Research & Education Building site and is expected to be completed in February.
- Aged Care and Rehabilitation Medicine Dept will relocate from Building 12 to ground level Building 10 in mid-February.
- The planning team is currently preparing the functional briefs for the new main building and community health as part of the work on the PPP.
- The Minister for Planning has granted Project Approval for the Research & Education Building which now allows the construction phase to commence.
- The project team will begin a major survey of assets at RNS in mid-February. Department managers will be advised shortly about the process, which involves the team visiting most departments in the hospital to barcode and log about 250,000 assets – everything from MRIs to microscopes! The process is expected to take about a team of 13 people about six weeks to complete.
- Research & Education stage two schematic design user groups are expected to be completed in February.

Community support for Chatswood grows

There is growing local support for the development of new community health services and facilities at Chatswood.

At a workshop held late last year, about 20 people representing consumers, local council and community, GPs and health care staff evaluated a range of facility options being considered by the Area for the delivery of community health services.

“There was general agreement that primary and community health care services for Chatswood need to be consolidated onto one new site, preferably in a coordinated way with other service providers,” said Area Chief Executive, Dr Stephen Christley.

“This is a great option for the local community because it will enable us to provide an expanded range of services at Chatswood, as well as continuing to deliver community health in other locations such as Cremorne.”

In addition to Chatswood’s existing services, the new health care centre could provide a range of additional services such as midwives or antenatal clinics and possibly general practice.

The workshop participants evaluated a number of options, including relocating all community health services at RNS or leasing local commercial space in Chatswood, however the preferred option was to redevelop on the existing Chatswood site.

Plans to consolidate the inefficient spread of community health services (currently located in 35 sites across the lower North Shore) into a new ‘hub and spoke’ model of care were also presented.

The new St Leonards community health building will provide the base, or ‘hub’, for the service while a range of community settings, such as Chatswood and Cremorne, will form the ‘spokes’.

This best practice model of care has been adopted by NSW Government under the new HeathOne NSW initiative, which emphasises better integration between services, multi-disciplinary health care teams and a major focus on wellness and early intervention.

“We are keen to ensure that services delivered on the lower North Shore are consistent with the best national and international health care practice,” said Dr Christley.

“This new model of care allows us to provide services when and where they are needed, to expand the range of community health services at Chatswood and to move to more collaborative health care with local GPs and service providers.”

Dr Christley said that the planning will also take into consideration services such as those provided at Westview.

“Our paramount concern is that appropriate management, clinical services and facilities are available for mental health consumers,” Dr Christley said.

The Area Health Service will now progress the options with NSW Health.

Chatswood currently provides Adult Mental Health, Child & Family Health and Frail Aged Day Care. Under the new proposal, additional services which could be provided in the new centre at Chatswood include:

- Drug and alcohol
- Counselling services
- Sexual health
- Midwives or antenatal clinics
- Diabetes groups
- Health promotion groups
- General practice and other outreach services and other outreach partnerships.