



# Project News

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## \$30 million boost for RNS research & education

The University of Sydney will contribute \$30 million towards the construction of the hospital's new education and research facility, boosting the total value of the project to \$91 million.

The historic new partnership was announced recently at RNS by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Gavin Brown, and NSW Minister for Health Reba Meagher.

"The NSW Government has already committed more than \$61 million in the construction of a new purpose-built facility for education and research at Royal North Shore Hospital," said NSW Minister for Health, Ms Reba Meagher.

"We welcome the University of Sydney's decision to contribute funding for an additional four floors of laboratory and administrative space for 200 more researchers."

"We see the University's contribution as an acknowledgement of the need to create dynamic collaborative environments where our best medical and scientific minds can share knowledge as well as resources," said University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor Professor Gavin Brown.



*Above, from left: Former Chief Executive Terry Clout, Professor Carol Pollock, Professor Michael Field, Vice-Chancellor Gavin Brown and NSW Minister for Health Reba Meagher at the signing of the historic partnership agreement.*

The new Research and Education Building will give medical research and clinical teaching a strong, recognisable identity by gathering together the groups that are currently scattered across the RNS campus. The University of Sydney's contribution will allow for the construction of an additional four floors specifically designed for medical research, allowing the new 11-storey building to accommodate up to 350 researchers.

Ms Meagher said she hoped that the University of Sydney's clear investment in medical research heralded the beginning of cooperative investment from the State and University to improve care.

"We are investing in medical research now because we are committed to providing better health care in the future," Ms Meagher said.

"Furthermore, I hope that the University of Sydney's \$30 million contribution encourages other educational and corporate institutions to consider the potential of investing healthcare research and the enormous benefits it can bring our community."

## PROJECT UPDATE

■ **Construction of the new Research & Education Building is progressing rapidly and the project is on schedule for occupation by the end of next year.**



■ **Sturt House** (Building 6) has been handed over to the construction company and demolition is expected to commence in November. The Sturt House site is required for the construction of the new R&E Building. Staff currently in Vindin House, Building 54 and Building 10 will be advised about the timetable for demolition shortly. While every effort will be made to reduce noise, dust and the impact of construction, there will be some inconvenience from time to time as we progress the demolition – we apologise for the disruption and we appreciate your patience.

■ The RNS Redevelopment Project **bid process** is drawing to a close, with the bidders expected to lodge their tenders in mid-November. The successful Project Company is currently scheduled to be announced in mid-2008 with construction on the new main building to commence in late 2008.

■ Human Resources and the Redevelopment Project Team have been consulting extensively with support services staff about the **labour service agreement** component of the PPP. If you are a support service staff member affected by the LSA, please speak to your manager, visit the HR Office or email [NSCCH\\_HR\\_RNS@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:NSCCH_HR_RNS@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au)

## Numbers up for Vindin House

Originally opened in 1931, Vindin House was home to the many young nurses who trained at RNS. While the main part of Vindin House is not scheduled for demolition until 2008, the graduate nurses made sure they got in early to say their goodbyes.

A farewell afternoon tea for graduate nurses took place on 6 October with more than 400 people attending. Ticket sales and the sale of vintage room numbers and nameplates from Vindin House raised more than \$5000 for medical equipment.

*Right: Project Team member Sue Fowler displays her Vindin House room number – a memento of her training days at RNS.*

