



Thursday, 13 May 2010

Capital Investment for Sydney Children's Hospital

NSW Deputy Premier and Health Minister, Carmel Tebbutt and Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation today announced the joint investment of a new Clinical Services Building at Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick. The NSW Government will invest \$12.72 million and enter into a partnership with the Foundation who will work with the community to raise \$15 million for the remainder of the project.

"Over the past ten years, Sydney Children's Hospital has grown the services that it provides to children and families across NSW and now needs to expand to meet the health needs of the future," said Ms Tebbutt.

"This investment is a demonstration of the Government's commitment to Sydney Children's Hospital and paediatric services in NSW and the partnership with the Hospital's Foundation will ensure that the new Clinical Services Building will provide a superb setting for first class health care," said Ms Tebbutt.

The new building will include:

- An eight bed Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit;
- A comprehensive Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre (partly funded by the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW);
- A surgical 23 hour inpatient ward;
- A new Family Centre for parents and carers, and;
- New clinical office space for health care professionals from a range of disciplines.

Ms Tebbutt said the designated area for an eight bed Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit is a significant step in caring for some of the State's most vulnerable children and adolescents.

"Children as young as seven are admitted to Sydney Children's Hospital for the treatment of mental health disorders like anxiety, depression and anorexia.

"Improving outcomes in the area of mental health is one of our State's key health priorities and we are committed to investing in this highly specialised area of need.

"Moving the Hospital's mental health services for children and adolescents to the one purpose built area means services can be streamlined further and delivered in an enhanced environment."

Ms Tebbutt said the planned relocation of beds, services and clinical offices will also free up space in the existing building to develop new isolation rooms and extend services as needed in the future.

Mr Jack Ford, Chairman of the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation says the new Building will be a collaborative effort between the State Government and the community it serves.

“Enhancing health services for the Children of NSW is our Foundation’s purpose and we are delighted to be working with the NSW Government to make the building a reality,” said Mr Ford.

“We will be embarking on a major fundraising appeal in the coming months, providing the community with the opportunity to support one of its leading children’s hospitals,” he said.

The tender process for the new Building is expected to commence in late 2010.

The funding contributions will be:

- NSW Government: \$12.727 million
- Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation: \$15.0 million

Sydney Children’s Hospital is one of the State’s leading centres for paediatrics and child health.

Each year, the Hospital cares for more than 30,000 children via its Emergency Department, admits 15,000 children and delivers more than 300,000 occasions of service via its outpatients and community health programs.

Media Contact:

Kate Meikle
Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation
Ph: 02 9382 1188 or 0412 641 611
Kate.meikle@schf.org.au