A NEW, WORLD-CLASS WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

OCTOBER 2013
Over the past decade, we’ve transformed South Australia’s health system.

We believe that South Australian families deserve access to the best possible health and hospital care – and we’ve delivered on that fundamental goal.

It’s why we’re building Australia’s most advanced public hospital, the new Royal Adelaide Hospital. It’s why we’ve modernised every major hospital in the state and are investing more than ever in our health system.

The State Government has made healthcare a priority, and South Australian families now have access to world-class care, world-class facilities, and some of the lowest waiting times in Australia.

The Women’s and Children’s Hospital is the leading provider of specialist care for children, as well as the state’s largest maternity and obstetric service.

But this ageing and constrained facility in North Adelaide will pose future challenges in a growing state.

Building a brand-new, high-tech Women’s and Children’s Hospital, collocated with new Royal Adelaide Hospital, is the next major step in our healthcare transformation.

It will give women, children and babies access to the most advanced acute hospital care in the southern hemisphere’s largest health and biomedical precinct, meaning that new mothers will no longer face the prospect of transfer away from their newborn.

The new Women’s and Children’s Hospital will maintain its unique name, identity and entrance, separated from the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

And throughout the process, local clinicians and the community will lead the design and implementation of this landmark new facility, which is proposed to be opened in 2023.

Your input will be a vital part of this visionary decision.

Jack Snelling M.P.
Minister for Health and Ageing
To give South Australian women, children and babies the best possible care in a new Women’s and Children’s Hospital as part of the southern hemisphere’s largest health and biomedical precinct.
Our Proposal

As part of our long-term vision for the future of the South Australian health system, the State Government will build a new world-class Women’s and Children’s Hospital.

This new hospital will be collocated with the new Royal Adelaide Hospital in the South Australian Health and Biomedical Precinct, which also includes the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and the University of Adelaide Medical School.

This is a long-term vision for the future of the South Australian health system.

Collocation of the Women’s and Children’s Hospital with the new Royal Adelaide Hospital will create comprehensive adult, women’s and children’s hospital facilities in a single precinct.

In the future this precinct will be the hub of the most advanced acute hospital care, health and medical research, medical training and education in Australia.

The new Women’s and Children’s Hospital will provide world-class services, and will:

- Have its own entrance separate from the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.
- Maintain its current name, identity and culture so the hospital can continue as the state’s leading provider of specialty care for women, children and babies.
- Open in 2023 on space already set aside for future growth within the South Australian Health and Biomedical Precinct.
- Offer physical separation of adult and paediatric patients, in keeping with international best practice.

The State Government is inviting broad feedback on this proposal until Sunday, 12 January 2014.
Transforming care for mothers, children and babies

During the planning and construction of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the State Government received feedback from the community and clinicians that the Women’s and Children’s Hospital should ideally be moved and collocated with the new Royal Adelaide Hospital in the future. The State Government is responding to that community feedback with this landmark decision.

A new, state-of-the-art Women’s and Children’s Hospital will meet the future needs of a growing state, and a collocation is considered ideal because:

• The current Women’s and Children’s Hospital site is constrained and ageing with limited options for expansion, which poses problems in a growing state.

• The current Women’s and Children’s Hospital does not have the capacity to provide general hospital services to women if these are required during childbirth. This means that a woman may have to be transferred to the Royal Adelaide Hospital for treatment, while her newborn baby remains at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital.

• The collocation of adult, women’s, children’s facilities, while maintaining physical separation between adult and paediatric patients, is in keeping with international best-practice as well as feedback from the community and clinicians.

• The paediatric services at the collocated Women’s and Children’s Hospital will be provided separately from adult services, and will be developed and designed to ensure their appropriateness for children as well as for state-of-the-art clinical care.

• The collocation of the new Women’s and Children’s Hospital with the new Royal Adelaide Hospital will bring South Australia into line with what is now considered the international and Australian benchmark for providing women’s and children’s health services.

• The new Royal Adelaide Hospital and health and biomedical precinct has a site available, and provides an ideal opportunity to build this new facility.

In considering the future health needs of South Australians it makes sense to consider a new state of the art hospital rather than redevelop the current Women’s and Children’s Hospital on a site which is constrained and separated from general adult emergency and acute services.

The proposal is currently at the concept development stage and detail about all the services that will be included in a collocated Women’s and Children’s Hospital will be determined during planning over the next few years.

The planning and development of the new Women’s and Children’s Hospital will be an inclusive process. The South Australian Government will actively seek the participation of clinicians, the community and industrial bodies throughout the process.

After we have received feedback about the proposed new Women’s and Children’s Hospital, the State Government will develop details about costs, budgets, timeframes and services in consultation with the community and clinicians.

The purpose of consultation is to seek feedback on this initiative from medical clinicians and the South Australian community.
What are the benefits of the move?

- A new, state of the art and purpose built Women’s and Children’s Hospital will result in improved models of care, facilities and services for South Australian women, children and babies.

- Collocation will support more complex obstetric and paediatric services for South Australians who need access to a wider range of specialist clinicians, with adult emergency specialist support and intensive care on hand for women should they be needed.

- A better start to life if emergency care is needed, as women will not need to be separated from their newborn babies should they require non-obstetric health care.

- More efficient use of public resources through sharing of facilities and medical equipment, where appropriate.

- Access to the best clinicians who are attracted to live and work in South Australia thanks to the comprehensive teaching and education opportunities that come with the southern hemisphere’s largest health and biomedical precinct.

- A smooth transition to adult services for adolescents with serious illnesses that require ongoing care.

What will happen to the old site?

Renewal SA will plan for the redevelopment of the current Women’s and Children’s Hospital site and will consider options for adaptive reuse in consultation with the community.
Our health and hospitals’ transformation

Since 2002, the State Government has transformed our health system.

We believe that all South Australians deserve access to high quality care.

That’s why the State Government has redeveloped every metropolitan hospital in South Australia, employed more doctors and nurses and increased elective surgery numbers.

It’s why we’re building Australia’s most advanced hospital, the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

This new facility will provide South Australians with world-class care in the southern hemisphere’s largest health and biomedical precinct.

The precinct also includes the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute – a landmark new facility that will see our state become a world leader in medical research.

This precinct will see the best and brightest come to Adelaide.

In less than 12 years, we’ve undertaken more than $1.9 billion in capital projects across the health portfolio.

This investment means better hospitals and health facilities, and better outcomes for South Australian patients and their families.

Our major metropolitan hospitals – Flinders Medical Centre, Lyell McEwin Hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Modbury Hospital and Noarlunga Hospital – have all been renewed and modernised.

We recognised that country South Australians have better outcomes when they can access healthcare closer to home – and we’re delivering.

Major capital works are underway or have been completed at country hospitals around the state, including at Mt Gambier, Berri, Whyalla and Ceduna.

To service our growing and ageing state, we’ve opened more than 200 extra beds across the metropolitan area, with more hospital beds per person than any other State or Territory.

Our investment in health includes more than 3,700 more nurses, 1,000 more doctors and 1,000 more allied health professionals in our public health system – with more doctors and nurses per person in our hospitals than any other state.

What this means for South Australians, is that they have better health facilities, more timely, advanced health care, lower waiting times and most importantly, better health outcomes.
Next steps for better care

The State Government is inviting feedback from the community and clinicians on the proposal for a new, world-class Women’s and Children’s Hospital on the same site as the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

In opening this initiative for broad consultation with the community and clinicians our goal is to gather as much feedback on the proposal as possible. The State Government wants to inform and listen to the community and clinicians’ opinions, ideas and concerns about the planned collocation.

The government will establish a steering committee of experts and clinicians to lead the detailed development and implementation of this landmark decision.

This committee will make sure that clinicians, especially those at the existing Women’s and Children’s Hospital, are intimately involved in the planning and design of the new hospital, recognising that they are well placed to advise on the services they themselves deliver.

This policy will contribute to our long-term vision for future of the South Australian health system. When it is expect to be opened in 2023, the new Women’s and Children’s Hospital will enhance our ability to maintain patient safety whilst providing efficient, modern services together with education, training and research opportunities into the future in a world-class hospital service.

Health benefits for the women and children of South Australia will be significant and arise from improved services, access to specialist services, more efficient use of resources and increased satisfaction and safety.

The State Government has determined that Renewal SA will plan for the redevelopment of the current Women’s and Children’s Hospital site and will consider options for adaptive reuse in consultation with the community, through a separate process.

Details about budget, timeframes and services will be determined in consultation with the community and clinicians.

You are invited to provide feedback on this initiative until Sunday, 12 January 2014 and there are several ways you can have your say.
Where can I have my say?

For more information please visit
www.newWCH.sa.gov.au

You are invited to provide feedback on this proposal until **Sunday, 12 January 2014** and there are several ways you can have your say.

- Email to newWCH@health.sa.gov.au
- Post to WCH Proposal, PO Box 287
  Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000
- Online survey at www.newWCH.sa.gov.au
For more information please visit

www.newWCH.sa.gov.au