

## FACT SHEET

### WHAT IS THE RRCS

- RRCS is a not-for-profit organisation.
- It is a leader in the field in Australia and has a 107 year history of providing care to the community.
- The Centre was started in 1899 by Susan Schardt. Blind from birth, Miss Schardt rented a single cottage at Surry Hills to care for 16 "incurables."
- The Governor of NSW, The Hon Henry Rawson, became its first patron in 1901.
- The Centre's Patron is current Governor, Professor Marie Bashir AC.
- Highly-regarded internationally, with the finest in clinical expertise and academic knowledge.
- Services include medical, nursing, nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, pastoral care, physiotherapy, psychology, social work, speech pathology, driver assessment and community-based rehabilitation and a range of disability support programs.
- The Centre is accredited with the Australian Council on HealthCare Standards and has affiliated teaching status with the University of Sydney.
- It owns the 18 hectares of land on which it presently resides at Ryde.

### In 2005, the Centre:

- Had 447 admissions and 36,485 bed days
- Conducted 30,228 individual services to outpatients and clients in their homes
- Had an average stay of 49.6 days
- Maintained longstanding relationships with Royal North Shore, Prince of Wales, Liverpool Hospital, Westmead Hospital and Lismore Hospital
- Provided complex care to some 107 people living in a variety of residential locations across Sydney

**The demand for enhanced rehabilitation and disability services continues to grow as a result of medical breakthroughs, people living longer, public expectations; increasing accident and survival rates.**

### PROVIDING BETTER SERVICES

- The new world-class rehabilitation and disability centre will allow the RRCS's specialists to provide increased treatment and care to more patients/clients.
- New services and facilities will help reduce bottlenecks in patient treatment by allowing smoother progress of people from acute hospital wards to a specialised rehabilitation and disability support environment.

### The project will allow the RRCS to overcome:

- Rundown and outmoded buildings
- Risks to loss of accredited teaching status
- Risks to integrated care
- Institutionalised care setting
- High maintenance costs
- Poor wheelchair and disability access
- Restrictions to introducing more services and programs

### THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Public consultation started on the project plans back in 1998. In the interim, the Centre has held public meetings, exhibitions, and numerous levels of communication with Ryde City Council and other key stakeholders.

RRCS has listened and recorded people's comments and suggestions. The approach has been open and transparent.

Concept Plans have been amended in response to community and stakeholder feedback.

The RRCS has undertaken an unprecedented three separate traffic studies on the impacts of the project.

*Maximising Abilities  
- Optimising Lifeskills*

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- Large tracts of open space and landscaped wellness gardens.
- Series of wetland ponds and an upgraded environmental-friendly stormwater detention system to manage water storage and run-off.
- Cycling paths.
- Pedestrian walks.
- Networks of traffic calming devices and improved line marking on local thoroughfares.
- Public domain improvements will also result in better integration with transport routes and services.
- The number of residential dwellings will be limited to 795, or approximately 50 dwellings per hectare.
- Dwellings will be architecturally designed to fit in with the natural topography of the site.
- Advanced environmental standards will apply across the whole site.
- Community Health Centre providing physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, family medicine, specialist medical outpatient clinics, day care clinics.
- Child Care Centre.
- Community meeting areas.

## OTHER PLUSES FOR PATIENTS

- Specialist rehabilitation and disability services.
- Expanded medical and scientific research and educational facilities.
- Latest diagnostic and assessment technologies.
- Modern and private patient accommodation.
- Healing gardens to aid recovery, rehabilitation and community socialisation.
- Sporting and recreational complex, including tennis and basketball courts, café, modern multi-purpose gym and meeting hall.
- Modern home-like environment for people undergoing rehabilitation and increased long-term extended care accommodation and services for people with complex care disability support needs who are aged or aging.
- Increased transitional living accommodation for clients re-integrating back into the community.
- Short-term family accommodation for families supporting loved ones during rehabilitation.

## COST OF THE PROJECT

- In the order of \$80 million for the new facilities and recreational amenities.

## FINANCING

- RRCS is funding the project, not relying on taxpayer money. Monies generated from the project will pay for the new facilities, equip the new Centre, and underpin the provision and expansion of services and research for decades to come.

## BETTER TREATMENTS for

- Spinal cord injury
- Brain injury
- Amputations
- Burns
- Orthopaedic injury
- Stroke
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Falls
- Workplace and sporting accidents
- Assaults

## OTHER BENEFITS

- The project will make provision for the headquarters for three non-government organisations – **Technical Aid to the Disabled, NSW Wheelchair Sports Association and Youthsafe** – to continue to carry out invaluable work to assist people living with a disability in the community.
- The RRCS has agreed to assist the **Riding for the Disabled (RDA)** organisation to relocate to a new more appropriate and purpose designed equestrian facility located with the Marsfield Pony Club at Marsfield.
- Three Academic Research and Educational Units` – **Rehabilitation Studies, Rehabilitation Nursing Research and Development, Centre for Developmental Disabilities** – will remain on-site for teaching medical, nursing and allied students. A fourth Chair in Interdisciplinary Community-based HealthCare is under negotiation.

## OVERCOMING A MAJOR PROBLEM

- There are more than 2,600 young people in nursing homes in NSW alone.
- The RRCS has the expertise to help, but there is currently no funding, suitable accommodation or facilities.
- The new Centre's significant investment in new facilities and advanced rehabilitation practices will pave the way for the re-integration of people with disabilities back into the community as active participants of their community.