

The Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney Concept Plan Feb 2006 Fact Sheet

The Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, one of Australia's leading specialised rehabilitation and disability services, is seeking Government approval to construct a new purpose-built, state-of-the-art specialist rehabilitation, disability and research facility on the Ryde site that would be a model for Australia.

Our current buildings are old and out-dated, impose unnecessary limitations on best practice rehabilitation and disability support provided to our clients and are increasingly having difficulty meeting accreditation standards.

The new facility will form the headquarters of the statewide speciality services in brain injury, spinal injury, stroke, aged care and disability support as well as network of community based support services, integrating rehabilitation and disability services into the community – where they were needed most.

The key features of this innovative proposal include:

- The new Centre would create a living and healing environment more like home than an institution design.
- The facilities would reflect the latest thinking in rehabilitation practice, such as new diagnostic and assessment technologies in an ultra-modern gymnasium.
- Healing gardens, sporting facilities and community recreational spaces would create a tranquil atmosphere, complimenting recovery during and post-rehabilitation.
- A modern Community Health Centre which would offer a range of health and disability services such as physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, family medicine and specialist medical outpatient clinics, day activity Centre and Assessment Centre.
- Headquarters for three major non-government organisations - Technical Aid to the Disabled, NSW Wheel Chair Sports Association and Youthsafe - which carry out invaluable work to assist people living with a disability in the community, such as the modification of technical equipment, facilitation of sporting activities and injury prevention.
- A sporting and recreational complex, including hydrotherapy pool, tennis and basketball courts.
- A Child Care Centre and other communities meeting areas.
- New research, teaching and educational facilities for the three academic units located on-site to support the teaching of medical, nursing and allied students as well as hosting international delegations and study tours.

Why is Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney embarking on a redevelopment?

The Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, one of Australia's leading specialised rehabilitation and disability services, is seeking Government approval to construct a new purpose-built, state-of-the-art specialist rehabilitation, disability and research facility on the Ryde site that would be a model for Australia.

Our current buildings are old and out-dated, impose unnecessary limitations on best practice rehabilitation and disability support provided to our clients and are increasingly having difficulty meeting accreditation standards.

If approved, RRCS will include a detailed Management Plan to ensure the Centre stays open and all services remain accessible throughout the improvement process.

What is happening on the balance of the site?

On the balance of the site, RRCS is seeking approval to allow the creation of a new residential community.

The sale of this portion of the land will allow RRCS to build the much needed new Rehabilitation and Disability Centre, fund its Research Foundation and expand services across rural and remote areas of NSW and beyond out of its own funds, and reduce the reliance on government subsidy.

That means the capital funding for this new Centre, which will be open to public and private patients, will be provided by RRCS to the people of New South Wales.

When approved, the proposal would have a neighbourhood atmosphere, including community, commercial and recreational facilities, and set in large tracts of green space that would open up the Centre's private land to the public for the very first time.

The plans are only at the concept stage and are being considered by the Department of Planning.

The key features of the residential component include:

- About 900 residential dwellings comprising detached houses, town houses, attached houses, duplexes and apartments.
- Dwellings set in a park land environment with about 50 percent of the 18 hectare site dedicated to open space or landscaped areas.
- A diversity of architectural styles taking advantage of the natural topography of the site to create some of the best views of the city in Sydney.
- High quality public domain improvements, including a new street network, integration with public transport routes and mature landscaping.

Who is developing this project?

RRCS is the applicant in this process, and is working with its own master planners and other consultants to ensure a responsible solution for the site. There is no developer involved at this stage. Once the Concept Plan has been approved, RRCS will go to the market to select an appropriate developer to deliver on the approved Concept Plan.

Has there been community consultation?

RRCS met this week with the DoP and community representatives to discuss specific issues related to traffic and stormwater.

In September 2005 during the public exhibition period, RRCS provided an information session to Putney Progress Association, as well as eight additional sessions to review the proposal with the community. In addition, the information was posted on the Centre's website, with information on how to make comment to the Department of Planning.

RRCS has been consulting and refining concepts for the site since 2000. The current Concept Plan 2005 reflects the ideas and suggestions of the community and range of stakeholders gathered in 2000.

Issues raised during this process and the public exhibition phase are being closely examined by the Department of Planning and RRCS.

Approved for Release

15 February 2006

**Peter Williamson
Chief Executive Officer**