

MEDIA RELEASE **13 August 2007**

ROYAL REHAB PUTS CARE OF WEEMALA RESIDENTS FIRST

Claims that ROYAL REHAB (Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney) is planning to evict residents from its Weemala hospital unit are totally untrue.

“ROYAL REHAB is pledged to continue to provide the care and support that is needed for Weemala residents, and that is the promise that has been genuinely conveyed to the families,” the Chief Executive of the Centre, Peter Williamson, said today.

“No one is turfing anyone out, and no one would ever consider such a thing,” Mr Williamson said.

“The Directors and management of the Centre genuinely believe that the residents and their future care are a priority of the highest order.

“Can I make it very clear that the families of residents will be involved in making any decision on where their loved ones will be housed.

“We are considering a variety of options – including an option that up to 16 residents with complex care and high support needs are now to remain on the ROYAL REHAB site.

“What is true is that the antiquated institutional building is not going to remain as part of the development of the new state of the art disability and rehabilitation campus.

“Anyone who knows the current building can verify, it simply can’t be reconfigured and re-equipped to do justice to modern standards. What is important is that the specialist services we provide will continue from a range of accommodation settings.”

Mr Williamson added. “Under existing plans, the Weemala building will remain as is for at least another 18 months to two years. The Directors of the Centre want to allow as much time as possible for consultation on the future housing requirements of each individual resident”.

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