

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NEW HOME FOR RIDING FOR THE DISABLED RYDE CENTRE**

The Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney (ROYAL REHAB) has welcomed arrangements that will help ensure a new and improved base for members of the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) Ryde Centre.

The development paves the way for the successful relocation of RDA from the grounds of the ROYAL REHAB at Ryde after 25 years to a more purpose-built complex at Marsfield Park.

ROYAL REHAB is meeting the majority of the costs of the relocation and the installation of new infrastructure at Marsfield Park.

The RDA Ryde Committee voted in favour of Marsfield Park as the preferred site for relocation. RDA Ryde and Ryde Pony Club are very happy with this outcome.

The impending move to Marsfield Park as the RDA's preferred new home follows a two year project to find a destination that would accommodate the special needs of its members and their horses.

"It has been a long and winding process for all parties concerned, but what is important is that RDA members can now confidently look forward to a safer and better established new base," said ROYAL REHAB Chairman Clive Austin.

The President of RDA Ryde Centre, Toni Fearn, said the Association and its members were very thankful for the generous support shown by ROYAL REHAB in helping to secure a new site and assisting in the provision of new facilities.

"ROYAL REHAB provided grounds for the Association at Ryde for over two decades, and now has helped greatly to pave the way for a new era of operation for our Centre...it is a great outcome for members and volunteers but even more so for our riders and our horses. We look forward to soon being able to resume providing therapy, sport and recreation to our riders.

"We thank ROYAL REHAB for helping make this happen."

Following very valuable assistance given by Ryde Council in utilising specialist consultants to locate alternate sites for RDA, ROYAL REHAB employed the services of other specialist consultants to help facilitate negotiations with State Government agencies and Ryde Council to allow RDA to secure land and access rights at Marsfield Park.

ROYAL REHAB and the RDA gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Office of the Minister for Planning, Frank Sartor, and the Departments of Planning and Lands, in guiding a successful outcome to the process.

ROYAL REHAB is proceeding with a proposed scheme to replace its old and outdated facilities at its present site with a state-of-the-art rehabilitation and disability medical campus, plus public parklands.

The organisation is negotiating to sell part of its existing landholding to meet the cost of the proposed scheme and future operations.

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