



**Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney
Provides Update on Concept Plan**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 February 2006 – One of Australia’s leading specialist rehabilitation and disability services, the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney (RRCS) has continued to work with the community, Ryde City Council and the NSW Government to revitalise its site at Ryde.

The project will lead to the creation of a new purpose-built, state-of-the-art specialist rehabilitation, disability and research facility site that would be a model for Australia.

RRCS met with NSW Department of Planning officials this week to hear first hand the views of the community on the Concept Plan for its privately owned 18- hectare site. The Centre proposes to build new facilities on approximately three hectares. RRCS will sell the balance of the private site, after a competitive market process, to create a sustainable, residential community to fund the new facilities.

RRCS CEO Peter Williamson said, “As we will continue to be a part of the Ryde community, we look forward to a positive resolution to the issues raised and are committed to delivering a responsible project. We have been working with local council and the community consistently over the years, and have included these recommendations into the current Concept Plan.

Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney is a private, not-for-profit organisation located in Ryde NSW providing public and private rehabilitation and disability services for people who have sustained traumatic injury and illness, including brain injury, spinal injury, stroke, amputations and burns. The organisation has been providing rehabilitation and disability services for more than 100 years.

-More-

Royal Rehabilitation Centre Update

Page 2

"Our clients have been accommodated far too long in outdated and inappropriate facilities. Now the need is urgent for the Centre to complete the design and construction of a new state-of-the-art rehabilitation and disability centre within the next two years.

RRCS is working with the NSW Government and the local community on its plans to revitalise its site in Ryde, and is seeking government approval for its Concept Plan to be treated as a development of State and Regional Significance under the Environment, Planning and Assessment Act.

If approved, RRCS will proceed to devise specific plans for the new centre, containing details about the new buildings, what they will look like and how they will be configured. These plans will be submitted to the Department of Planning this year for approval. Construction will commence immediately after approval.

RRCS will also progress the creation of the residential community on the balance of the site. The sale of this portion of the land will allow RRCS to go ahead with its plans, fund its Research Foundation and other vital services out of its own funds, and reduce the reliance on government subsidy.

If approved, RRCS would then go to the market to select an appropriate developer to deliver on the Plan. There is no developer at this stage.

-End-

Media Contact:

Rachel Bejma, Community Relations

9808 9268

www.royalrehab.com.au