

## OUTCOMES OF COMMUNITY BRIEFING

*ROYAL REHAB held a Community Briefing on 9 September to provide an update on the development project, hear the views of community members and answer their questions.*

### Main outcomes included:

#### SUBDIVISION

ROYAL REHAB has lodged a subdivision application with the Department of Planning. The subdivision involves the creation of six allotments – four residential lots; one central parkland lot; and one medical campus lot.

The subdivision plan will enable ROYAL REHAB to control the staging of the development.



Community members overwhelmingly supported a motion from the floor that ROYAL REHAB join with Ryde Council to urge the RTA to change its decision and install traffic lights at Victoria Road to provide ingress/egress for the ROYAL REHAB development.

ROYAL REHAB has written to the RTA (with a copy sent to the Department of Planning) saying it joins with Council in supporting the installation and seeking an urgent review of the RTA position on the lights.

#### CONCEPT PLAN

ROYAL REHAB is committed to having a modern new hospital on the site in the future.

The meeting was advised that ROYAL REHAB had conducted a thorough review of its operations including a review of seven potential relocation options (including Macquarie Hospital, Royal North Shore Hospital, Ryde Hospital and other sites). A consolidation of the existing hospital facility on two hectares was determined to be the best option – as expressed in the Concept Plan.

#### FUNDING

The meeting was advised that ROYAL REHAB currently had a funding shortfall of approximately \$2.1 million per annum (the real figure is \$2.5 million per annum) and that this shortfall had continued over the past eight years, seriously eroding ROYAL REHAB's balance sheet.

By way of clarification, this funding shortfall is in relation to operating expenses. Over and above this shortfall, ROYAL REHAB urgently requires a capital injection of at least \$80 million to secure the organisation's future.

ROYAL REHAB currently does not receive enough State funding or Federal funding to meet this shortfall.

The meeting overwhelmingly agreed to two motions from the floor calling for ROYAL REHAB to actively seek additional funding from State and Federal governments to support its ongoing operations and capital works program.

ROYAL REHAB is now drawing up suitable applications to put before both levels of government, and the Chairman of ROYAL REHAB is following up an earlier request for a meeting with the Prime Minister John Howard.

The meeting was advised that no developer was involved at this stage.

By way of clarification, a number of companies have been in contact with ROYAL REHAB over the past 12 months to express their interest in the site. In the process of those discussions, a suitable company has been selected following independent due diligence and probity checks, for a conditional sale of the residential component of the project.

No Board or executive member has a pecuniary interest in the project.

# ROYAL

REHABILITATION CENTRE SYDNEY

## ROYAL REHAB BOARD

The meeting was advised that Directors are appointed according to the By-laws of the organisation.

They are appointed by other Directors and the community. The By-laws allow for a minimum of five up to a maximum of 12 positions, and a \$2 membership fee is payable each year. Board members must sign a 'conflict of interest declaration' each year and disclose any potential conflicts at all Board Meetings and Board sub-Committee meetings.

No Board member has or will be remunerated in any way as a result of the redevelopment.

Details of the experience and expertise of all 11 Directors can be found on ROYAL REHAB's website: [www.royalrehab.com.au](http://www.royalrehab.com.au)



## WEEMALA

ROYAL REHAB is actively assisting families of Weemala residents in their health and support needs and living preferences.

No resident will be evicted from the Weemala service under any circumstances.

The meeting overwhelmingly approved a motion calling on ROYAL REHAB to make provision for any Weemala resident to be given accommodation on site should they choose that as their preferred option.

ROYAL REHAB has now given that undertaking in writing.

## RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

The meeting was advised that ROYAL REHAB is working with Ryde Council and State Government agencies – with the support of RDA - to secure one of two alternative locations (Marsfield Park and Yaralla).

ROYAL REHAB will be contributing to the relocation costs and facilitating the relocation of the RDA to their new site.



## HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The meeting was advised that the Heritage Survey did not recommend adaptive reuse and that the Concept Approval permitted demolition of the Moorong building.

The heritage significance of this building will be handled by the Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

*The Minutes of the Community Briefing can be viewed in full on the ROYAL REHAB website: [www.royalrehab.com.au](http://www.royalrehab.com.au)*