

Media Release



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A welcome announcement for Calvary Mater Newcastle

General Manager Colin Osborne today welcomed an announcement by Leader of the Opposition Barry O' Farrell of the intention to gift to Calvary Mater Newcastle a parcel of land adjacent to the Mater campus saying it is great news for the hospital.

The completion of the hospital redevelopment in 2009 resulted in a campus that was effectively "landlocked" from the perspective of expanding cancer and other clinical facilities. "This announcement of the land will enable us to effectively plan for the ongoing development the hospital and its services.

"International trends show that comprehensive cancer centres which include public/private sector involvement in clinical services, research and teaching are the most effective model to adopt.

"Calvary Mater Newcastle has entered into discussions with its medical staff about the development of a range of cancer and associated services to augment and complement the services it provides as a public hospital.

"The Medical staff have expressed support for this concept and Calvary Mater Newcastle has, as a result commenced preliminary studies of how the land may best be used to benefit both the hospital including provision for the proposed Hunter Medical Research Institute building (HMRI).

"We welcome this generous announcement. It is great that research and clinical services will be able to be collocated, this will see a new era emerging as it facilitates in the rapid translation of research findings into clinical practice", said Mr Osborne.

Dr Aidan Foy Chairman of the hospital's Medical Staff Council said that should this initiative proceed it would be applauded by the Medical Staff of the hospital as it would ensure the hospital's ongoing development and expansion will not be constrained by a lack of space.

"The hospital has a crucial role in the provision of health services to the local community and this initiative ensures that it can continue to do the job that the community expects of it", said Dr Foy.

Calvary Mater Newcastle's Director of Radiation Oncology Services Dr Anne Capp said today the preliminary discussions held with hospital management regarding innovations to establish expanded services adjacent to the Mater campus have been very productive to date.

"These proposals will not only enable the existing services to be augmented but will result in clinical practice and research expansion.

"Clinicians will have greater opportunities to practice in a more diverse environment. This should assist in making Newcastle a more attractive setting for senior specialists in oncology and other clinical services", commented Dr Capp.

-Ends-

For further media enquiries, please contact: Ingrid Grenell 4014 4714 /0408 605 374

Precinct Plan

A - Mater Cancer Care Clinical Expansion - 1.26ha

B - Medical research and Education Precinct (subject to confirmation with HMRI) - 0.79ha

C - Residential, Transitional and End of Life Care Precinct - 1.03ha

D - Entry Node

E - Internal Boulevard



