

## Concord Hospital mental health precinct underway

*August 2006 - View from the Peak*

The new \$58 million, 174 bed mental health precinct at Concord Hospital is now underway and completion is targeted for 2008. NSW Premier Iemma took part in a special ceremony on 25 July to mark the start of construction on what will be the largest new mental health facility in NSW in decades.

The co-location of new mental health beds and services with a major general hospital means patients will have access to the diagnostic and treatment services without having to travel to a general hospital. They will also be provided with stronger links to an extensive network of community mental health care teams. "By providing mental health patients and medical staff with better support and a better environment, it will also provide comfort and respite for patient's families" said Mr Iemma.

The new Concord mental health precinct will include:

- Acute Adult Unit (60 Beds)
- Acute Adult Intensive Care Unit (20 beds)
- Acute Psychogeriatric Unit (30 beds)
- Extended Care Units (29 beds)
- Rehabilitation and Recovery Ward/Hostel (27 beds)
- Rehabilitation Cottages (8 beds)
- Rehabilitation Unit

This new purpose built modern facility is part of the relocation of the inpatient component of care from Rozelle Hospital. All of the services that are currently provided at the Rozelle hospital will be available at Concord. In addition there will be 14 dedicated adolescent beds. There will also be two beds for mother and baby; and a specialised program for young people experiencing psychosis for the first time.

Planning for the precinct has been underway for a number of years and included input from patients, carers, staff and the community. The new buildings at Concord will offer more privacy for patients with single storey patient areas, single room accommodation access to courtyards and improved comfort and safety features.

Like Rozelle Hospital the Concord peninsula is located on the Parramatta River, the mental health services will be located on the northern end of the peninsula. This will allow patients access not only to the grounds of Concord Hospital but also to Rivendell, which is adjacent to the Hospital. The Rivendell grounds are set with formal gardens, some of first developed in the 1840s, and a number of large trees surrounded by lawns running to the river bank.

A number of other local initiatives will also contribute to the improvements including a landscape upgrade of the Concord Hospital peninsula land and a heritage restoration of Thomas Walker Hospital for the Rivendell Adolescent Mental health Unit.