

OUR COAST OUR FUTURE | The state of health

Hospital tipped to draw top innovators

By **BIANCA CLARE**

TREATMENTS for some of the world's most debilitating diseases could be developed on the Sunshine Coast.

President of the Local Medical Association, Doctor Wayne Herdy, said once the new Sunshine Coast health precinct at Kawana was complete it would attract some of the "finest medical minds".

By 2013 the site will feature a \$150 million private teaching hospital and the \$2.03 billion University Hospital which includes a \$60 million Skills, Academic and Research Centre by 2016.

"The turning of the first sod is a historic occasion both looking back to the past and forward to the future," Dr Herdy said. "Over the past decade there has been much public debate over the Sunshine Coast University Hospital project site, size and required services.

"That is all behind us now. The new hospitals will not only improve the quantity of health services available but also the quality.

"There will be exciting research and teaching opportunities.

"We could see some of the finest medical minds in the country attracted here."

The new Skills, Academic and Research Centre will operate as part of a Queensland-first collaboration. University of Queensland will help train medical students.

The University of the Sunshine Coast will be involved in the training and post-graduate education of nursing and allied health.



EXCITED: Sunshine Coast LMA president Wayne Herdy.



- The building phase of the new 200-bed Ramsay Health private hospital will generate about 250 construction jobs
- When it opens in 2013, work will then begin on the neighbouring \$2.03 billion public hospital, generating 11,000 building-related jobs
- The public hospital will open with 450 beds in 2016, growing to 738 beds by 2021

Meanwhile, the Sunshine Coast TAFE will provide training and provision of enrolled nurses and assistants in nursing and training packages for operational staff.

The centre will ensure staff receive training using the most up-to-date technology, including advanced life support hi-fidelity mannequins.

Early planning indicates that the centre will include three floors of teaching and research space.

Current facilities will remain

THE Sunshine Coast's public hospitals will continue to operate after the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital in 2016.

It was revealed the Gold Coast Hospital would close when the new University Hospital opened there.

But Health Minister Geoff Wilson said there was no chance of this happening on the Sunshine Coast.

"It is such a growing area and they (Caloundra and Nambour) serve vice different areas," he said.

Only the Caloundra emergency department will close in 2016. It is planned to be a centre for palliative care and renal dialysis.

It is planned for Nambour to retain approximately 280 beds and operate a level-two emergency ward.



ALL GO: Ramsay Health state operations manager Lloyd Hill and Health Minister Geoff Wilson turn the first sod for the hospital.

PHOTO: JOHN MCCUTCHEON

Hospital project is all systems go at Kawana

WITH sleeves rolled up, Health Minister Geoff Wilson turned the first sod at the Sunshine Coast's future medical precinct.

Given the history of the development he dug the shovel not once, but three times for good luck.

The public hospital was originally slated to open in 2014.

But the government, citing the economic downturn, announced in 2009 that the hospital would be delayed by two years.

About 11,250 building-related jobs will be created over the next five years from the co-located public and private hospital.

The early works will allow for the construction of the \$150 million

private hospital to start next year. The State Government will purchase up to 110 beds worth of public patient services from Ramsay Health until the public hospital is finally completed with 450 beds in 2016.

A Queensland Health spokesman said the estimate of construction jobs was based on an assumption that each \$1m of the construction component of the capital of the program resulted in the creation of a standard number of full-time equivalent positions.

Sunshine Coast Health District CEO Kevin Hegarty said he had no concerns about filling the 3500 public clinical jobs on offer.

Hospital tender documents issued

THE \$2.03 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital took another step forward yesterday with the issue of tender documents to the three short-listed bidders.

The public hospital is expected to be delivered as a Public Private Partnership.

The PPP will see Queensland Health enter into a 25-year procure-

ment contract with a private consortium to design, finance, construct and maintain the hospital buildings.

Five expressions of interest had been received from the market and these were short-listed to three.

Health Minister Geoff Wilson said these tender documents represented more than two years of de-

tailed planning by clinicians.

"More than 50 user groups were formed to develop the specifications for the project," Mr Wilson said.

It is understood these short-listed companies have invested between \$10 and \$20 million into their tender application.

A decision will be made next year.

Birthing unit will switch to Kawana

THE renowned obstetrics unit at Nambour Selangor Hospital will be transferred to new Kawana private hospital when it's complete.

Early works on the Ramsay Health-owned 200-bed hospital started yesterday.

Actual construction will begin in January and it is expected to be completed in December 2013.

The Kawana obstetrics unit will offer the same collaborative model of care and birthing options which Selangor has been noted for since it was commissioned in 1998.

Private practice obstetricians, paediatricians and a team of midwives will support and staff the Kawana unit.

Selangor maternity ward was created with a view to giving women on the Sunshine Coast a variety of birthing options and, where possible, minimal medical intervention.

Alternative birthing choices such as water birth, upright positions for birthing, vaginal breech and twin births, and vaginal births after caesarean section are all available.

The number of births increased from 300 in the first year to almost 1000 in its tenth year of establishment.

There are plans for the co-located public Sunshine Coast University Hospital to feature a birthing suite.

Ramsay Health Care's Queensland state operations manager Lloyd Hill said Selangor would become focused on rehabilitation services.

"Caloundra and Noosa will continue in operation," he said. "However, their scope of operation may change."

The new \$150 million private hospital will have 200 beds, six operating theatres, a day surgery centre, a day chemotherapy unit and an eight-bed intensive care unit.

Ramsay's design-build team for the Kawana site comprises construction firm John Holland and architects Phillips Smith Conwell, with Akalan Projects as project manager.

Dampa Gives You Long Lasting Energy!
Dampa is Purely Australian Made
Dampa - The Feel Good Food
Dampa Comes in Many Exciting Flavours
Dampa - The Natural Taste of Australia

OPENS TODAY!

Opposite Mooloolaba Surf Club

Bring this ad into the shop and get a Dampa of your choice at HALF PRICE!!!

Shop 7, 1 Esplanade, Mooloolaba

Ph 5444 4463

DAMPA DAMPA

