

### *The new Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) Building*

**ISSUED: 22 June 2009**

## Background

The HMRI Building is an exciting milestone for HMRI and the Hunter region.

It will bring together Hunter New England Health and University of Newcastle researchers in a \$90 million world class research facility on the Rankin Park Campus.

For the first time John Hunter Hospital, the largest teaching hospital outside a capital city in Australia, will have a state of the art research facility connected with it.

### **Where will the new building be built?**

The new HMRI Building will be built on the Northern side of the Rankin Park Campus between car park five (near Club Med) and car park six (near the Royal Newcastle Centre).

To allow for construction to take place it is necessary for the Club Med building to be demolished in 2010.

### **What will the new building be used for?**

The HMRI Building will accommodate research groups whose work is directly aligned with the clinical services on the Rankin Park campus. It will include research laboratories and support units, research administrative offices, and car parking.

### **What are the benefits of the new building?**

The construction of the 14,000 m<sup>2</sup> building will have a number of benefits for the community and our staff including:

- Supporting the translation of research discoveries into clinical practice.
- Attracting leading researchers and health specialists to the Hunter,

ensuring our community receives the best possible health care.

- Enabling researchers to expand their research and generate further discoveries to improve our health.
- Providing long term career opportunities for researchers in the Hunter.
- Construction of the building will inject an additional \$178 million to the Hunter region's economy and will create 670 jobs.

### **When will construction take place?**

Preliminary work to prepare the site for the new building will commence in October 2009. Construction of the new HMRI Building is scheduled to commence in March 2010 and is expected to continue until the first quarter of 2012.

### **How will the new building affect car parking?**

HMRI will build an additional 400 car spaces. This will include replacing 150 car spaces in the initial stages of the project (replacing the current car park five) and an additional 250 new car spaces for occupants of the HMRI Building.

The replacement car spaces will be built before construction commences so that during all stages of construction staff will continue to have access to the same number of car spaces as they did before construction commenced.

# New HMRI Building

## **What impact will construction have on traffic on the Rankin Park Campus?**

During construction there will be additional cars using the Rankin Park Campus because of the contractors working on site. As part of the project contractors will follow a traffic management plan to ensure that the impact on campus traffic is minimal.

## **My children attend Possum Place Vacation Care in Club Med. Will vacation care still be available?**

No change will be made to the location of the Possum Place Vacation Care until after the 2009/2010 Christmas school holidays which conclude after Australia Day 2010.

Workforce Development are working with representatives from Possum Place to attempt to source a suitable alternative location to continue hosting vacation care after this date

## **I currently have Club Med booked to use this year. What will happen to my booking?**

Groups can continue to use the Club Med space for the remainder of 2009. Existing bookings for 2009 remain current.

## **Can I make bookings to use Club Med in 2010?**

At this stage no bookings will be taken from staff wishing to use the Club Med space in 2010. John Hunter Hospital Venue Management will put a planning process in place to identify alternative venues for current users of the Club Med and work with divisional managers to identify suitable options for these users.

## **I currently use the surgical skills room in Club Med. Will this room remain available for use?**

A new surgical skills room will be constructed adjacent to the E-Bock of John Hunter Hospital, funded by HMRI. The existing surgical skills room will remain available for use for the remainder of 2009.

## **Which parts of John Hunter Hospital will the HMRI researchers be vacating?**

The HMRI Clinical Resource Centre located on Level 3 of JHH will be vacated in 2012 when the new building has been completed.

## **What will happen to the existing HMRI space currently located on Level 3 of John Hunter Hospital?**

Management is currently planning for the future use of the space on Level 3 of John Hunter Hospital once it is vacated by HMRI.

Further information about the use of this space will become available as planning progresses.

## **Where can I get more information?**

Questions about the Club Med site:

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Questions about the HMRI Building:

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To learn more about the HMRI Building, visit [www.hmri.net.au](http://www.hmri.net.au).