



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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Construction ready to commence for Sunshine Hospital's first class facilities

Work on the Sunshine Hospital's new teaching, training and research facility is ready to commence after the 'first sod' was turned today.

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon was on hand to assist with the sod turning and said she was pleased to see construction ready to begin after the Federal Government kick started the program with \$5.6 million for works to get underway.

"This project truly delivers for Melbourne's West."

"Not only will it be a first class centre for students to learn, the redevelopment project will attract more doctors, nurses and medical students to Melbourne's Western suburbs," Ms Roxon said.

"That means patients and the local community will benefit from improved clinical services and increased workforce."

The Federal Government has committed \$7 million in total to the project.

Construction of this new facility will enhance the hospital's capacity to deliver clinical training for local medical, nursing and allied health students, and provide new multidisciplinary facilities for Western Health's doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

Once completed the facility will:

- Provide a high fidelity simulation laboratory to conduct both clinical and surgical skills training
- Support high quality clinical research to support improvements in patient care
- Include lecture and teaching space.

The project is being conducted in cooperation with Western Health, Victoria University and the University of Melbourne and the new facility will deliver a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate health courses for medical students from the University of Melbourne and Victoria University.

The Victorian Government has also committed \$28.6 million to the redevelopment project, and the Victoria University and the University of Melbourne are contributing \$8 million each.

The new centre is expected to be completed by mid-2010.

For all media enquiries, contact the Minister's office on 02) 6277 7220