15 February 2013

**Boost to mental health services on its way**

Planning approval has been granted for a new $67 million state-of-the-art mental health unit at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, paving the way for construction to start soon.

The new Missenden Unit, a collaboration between the NSW Government, Sydney Local Health District and the University of Sydney, will house 53 beds (including seven for research and ambulatory services) and is expected to be finished by late next year.

The new unit, located in a purpose-built facility across the road from the main hospital on Missenden Rd, will provide an updated, modern environment for mental health patients, and address the growing demand for mental health services in the area, Sydney Local Health District’s Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson, said.

“Royal Prince Alfred Hospital’s current mental health unit is outgrowing its location so it is very exciting to see construction on the new facility starting soon,” Dr Anderson said.

“This is an important milestone for RPA, and Sydney Local Health District, because it reflects our ongoing commitment to constant improvement and growth, and to ensuring we provide staff, patients and the community with leading facilities and health care services.

“The new Missenden Unit will be bigger, better and much more modern, improving the experience for patients and their families, and helping us meet the community’s needs for decades to come " Dr Anderson said.

“Demolition of the previous buildings on the site has now been completed, and we expect the main works tender to be awarded next month with construction following close behind," Dr Anderson said.

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