



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

10 July 2008

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTRE UPGRADES

The Rudd Government today delivered on another election commitment and announced that contracts had been signed on the \$10 million redevelopment of South Australia's Flinders University Medical Centre which will help tackle an emerging national shortfall in medical school training capacity.

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon and Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth today visited the University to discuss the timeline for construction of these key health projects for South Australia.

The Rudd Government is pleased this election commitment to new and modern teaching facilities in South Australia is being delivered from just seven months after the election. The Government believes this investment is essential to meet the education needs of current and future medical students, and to maximise the quality of students and health professionals graduating from our universities.

The redevelopment project will include work at four of Flinders University's training sites, including:

- providing modern lecture theatres and tutorial rooms at the Flinders Medical Centre;
- upgrades to existing teaching facilities within the University's existing School of Medicine;
- construction of new education facilities at the 300 bed, acute care Repatriation General Hospital, which specialises in care for veterans and older people; and
- construction of new education facilities at the Noarlunga Health Services site, located about 30 minutes south of Adelaide.

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon said, "Equipping Flinders University with state-of-the-art teaching and training facilities will help Adelaide to attract and retain medical, nursing and allied health professionals, which ultimately benefits families throughout South Australia.

"The Rudd Labor Government promised at the last election to end the blame game and deliver better hospital and health care services to all Australians, when and where they need it.

"The commitment of \$10 million to Flinders University is part of the Government's \$389.5 million Budget commitment to deliver better outcomes for hospitals and community health throughout Australia," said Ms Roxon.

Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth said, “I am pleased the Rudd Government has delivered this important election commitment to the southern suburbs of Adelaide in its first budget.

“As a former health professional, I know the importance of providing high quality training is of importance to the state of South Australia. If students have positive experiences learning in South Australian Universities, they are more likely to continue their training and practicing in our great state,” said Ms Rishworth.

The upgrades are expected to be completed by mid-2010.