



PRESBYTERIAN AGED CARE NSW AND ACT

Thursday March 11, 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

BOOST FOR INNER-CITY AGED ACCOMMODATION

The not-for-profit operators of Paddington's Scottish Hospital precinct will launch an extensive community consultation program in relation to conceptual plans that could result in vital new aged care accommodation choices for local residents.

Presbyterian Aged Care NSW & ACT (PAC) said its priority was continuing and enhancing the sites long tradition of health, aged care, ministry and welfare services in a manner satisfactory to the local community.

The proposal would ease pressure on the inner-city's chronic undersupply of aged accommodation, provide accommodation options for different socio-economic requirements and enable locals to transition to seniors living arrangements close to their families and social networks.

The plans broadly involve the creation of 105 aged care beds, 90 independent living units and the removal of some existing non-heritage buildings. The sites original 1848 heritage building would be carefully restored, along with historic garden areas.

Existing aged care residents would be guaranteed ongoing accommodation, and multiple new aged care services and jobs would be created.

Preliminary briefings have already taken place with Woollahra Council, The Paddington Society and other local stakeholders.

Earlier this month PAC presented conceptual plans to the New South Wales Department of Planning to obtain advice on whether the concept should be considered by the State Government or assessed locally by Woollahra Council.

The Department of Planning advised this week that it was a matter for the State Government, meaning PAC is now in a position to focus more closely on details of the concept and step up community consultations.

PAC will reach out to residents and community groups to ensure the benefits of the broad proposal are understood, and to seek feedback and views on how the facilities can be delivered in a manner that is respectful of local amenity and heritage.

"This would be another important chapter of the Scottish Hospital site, which has fulfilled not-for-profit health, ministry and aged care functions in different forms since the mid 1800's," PAC Chief Executive Officer Paul Sadler said.

"There have been many additions and alterations over the years, but little change since 1985.

"Given that there is a chronic shortage of aged care accommodation in Sydney, serious thought needs to go into how the site can best evolve with the times and be utilised to meet current-day community needs.

"The catchment area for our residents is primarily the surrounding local community so we expect that there will be strong support, although we will need to consult extensively.

"There are enormous social, health and welfare benefits on offer and we are appealing to the community to help us find the right balance between maintaining the traditional functions of the site and maintaining the site's historic and environmental integrity.

"We are very confident there is a mutually acceptable way forward."

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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