

Friday, 16 May, 2008

FIRST CONCRETE POUR AT ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

After six months of digging down into the ground, work on the new Royal Children's Hospital is now on the way up.

Visiting the Flemington Rd site today, Premier John Brumby and Health Minister Daniel Andrews took part in the first concrete pour to mark the start of building work on the new six-level inpatient building.

"After six months of excavation, the Victorian community can now begin to see our new \$1 billion state-of-the-art hospital take its first steps towards rising out of the ground," Mr Brumby said.

"The hospital site is currently a giant hole in the ground, and by the end of the excavation 290,000 cubic metres of soil will have been removed – enough to fill 116 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

"At the moment 4000 cubic metres of soil is being removed each day, and is being recycled to where it's needed on other construction sites around Melbourne.

"Around 8000 cubic metres of soil is being stockpiled on the site, to be used later during construction."

Mr Brumby said the first of the eight tower cranes to be used in construction was erected this week, and the project has seen 420 piles – columns of concrete – placed from 12 to 20 metres deep in the ground.

The slab will take about six weeks to be poured.

Mr Brumby said work on the façade will begin in September with the basic structure of the inpatient building to be completed by the end of December.

Mr Andrews said the 150 workers currently on the construction site would expand to 250 next month, and then increase to 400 in September.

Each of the five levels of inpatient wards in the new building would have 60 beds, and there would be shell space for an extra 30-bed ward if required.

"The wards will comprise 85 per cent single rooms, providing privacy and rest for patients and their families," he said.

"And 80 per cent of the rooms will have direct park views.

"This will be an internationally acclaimed 'green hospital' which will meet key sustainability targets, including greenhouse gas and peak energy reduction, water conservation and waste minimisation."

The hospital, which will have capacity to treat an extra 35,000 patients a year, will be completed in 2011.