



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Premier of Victoria

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NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PROJECT HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

Work on Victoria's new Royal Children's Hospital has begun with Premier John Brumby and Health Minister Daniel Andrews turning the first sod today.

Mr Brumby said the new \$1 billion Royal Children's Hospital will be a major landmark which will combine an iconic design with world-class health facilities.

"Most of the planning has all been done, the Children's Health Partnership consortium has signed a long-term agreement with the Government to build and maintain the new hospital, and now it's time for the work to start," Mr Brumby said.

"Today marks the beginning of what will be a hive of activity until the new hospital is complete in 2011.

"The new hospital will provide a significant range of extra facilities and services to benefit sick children and their families.

"The consortium will be providing expanded food shops and a small supermarket within the hospital, as well as a 90-room hotel accommodation facility and a gymnasium.

"There will be extra childcare facilities to support families visiting a sick child, and many other features not normally associated with a hospital which will help patients, families and staff," Mr Brumby said.

Health Minister Daniel Andrews said the new hospital will have the highest percentage of single rooms of any public hospital in Australia, with 85 per cent of all rooms in the new RCH being single rooms.

"The new hospital will blend in with the park, and everything possible is being done to limit its impact on the environment," Mr Andrews said.

"The 'green' features will result in an overall 45 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared with a conventional hospital, and a 20 per cent reduction in water usage.

"Some of the features include a black water treatment plant, which will also provide surplus water that can be used for Royal Park," he said.