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PIKE ANNOUNCES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SHORTLIST

Minister for Health Bronwyn Pike today announced the shortlist of consortia to provide proposals for the development of the new \$850 million Royal Children's Hospital.

"The new Royal Children's Hospital project is the most significant health infrastructure development in Australia," Ms Pike said.

"The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring the Royal Children's Hospital continues to provide world class child and adolescent health care, as well as continuing to be an international leader in research and education."

The decision to keep the hospital in Parkville, where it is surrounded by some of Victoria's most modern medical research facilities and technology, would bring huge benefits including an increase in Royal Park parkland once the project has been completed.

The new hospital will be constructed under the *Partnerships Victoria* model, which will require the private sector to design, construct, finance and maintain the facility over a contract period of 28 years. The Government will operate the new facility and continue to deliver all clinical services.

Ms Pike said the expressions of interest received were of high standard and demonstrated the strength and competitiveness of the Victorian infrastructure market.

The successful three short listed consortia, and their key consortium members, are:

- Children's Health Partnership - Babcock & Brown, Bovis Lend Lease and Spotless Services;
- Kid's Health Partnership - Bilfinger Berger BOT, Baulderstone Hornibrook, United Group Services, ISS Facility Services and Macquarie Bank; and
- Plenary Health - Plenary Group, Multiplex, Deutsche Bank, Honeywell and Medirest.

The short listed consortia will be asked to develop a detailed, fully costed proposal for the new Royal Children's Hospital development. The announcement of the successful consortium will be expected in 2007, with commencement of construction in late 2007. The new hospital will commence operations in 2011.

Ms Pike said Victoria's new Royal Children's Hospital would be an opportunity for the successful consortium to make their mark on an internationally recognised development that would call on exceptional architectural and urban design.

"We want to see an innovative design that is child and family friendly, continuing our strong history of high quality patient services to Victorian children and their families," Ms Pike said.