



Lara Giddings, MHA

Minister for Health and Human Services

Friday, 11 January 2008

Architects and Engineers Appointed to the New Royal Project

The Minister for Health and Human Services, Lara Giddings, today announced architects and building services engineers had been appointed to provide expert advice and services to the redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital.

"I am pleased to welcome Bassett Consulting Engineers and architects Billard Leece to the new Royal team," Ms Giddings said.

"Their expertise in architecture and engineering for health care facilities will provide us with the specialist skills we need in the redevelopment of the state's major tertiary referral hospital.

"Each firm has also formed alliances with international and local firms to ensure the project will benefit from both international best practice and a thorough understanding of local requirements.

"The architectural consultancy, Billard Leece Partnership, is a Melbourne-based firm with extensive experience in major health projects. It is currently involved in the redevelopment of the \$850m Royal Children's Hospital in Victoria.

"For the purposes of the New Royal project, Billard Leece has partnered with US-based Harwood K. Smith (HKS), which will contribute specialist health planning advice and international expertise, as well as Hobart-based firm Forward Brianese.

"Forward Brianese has extensive experience in public buildings works in Tasmania and has an in-depth working knowledge of appropriate development planning for the local building industry, environment and values.

"Melbourne-based Bassett Consulting Engineers will bring national and international expertise in building services engineering. It has experience on significant health projects including the Austin and Mercy Hospital redevelopments in Victoria, the new Fiona Stanley Hospital in Perth and the Auckland City Hospital in New Zealand.

"Bassett has partnered with US-based energy specialists WM Group, Brisbane-based information technology specialists Valintus, and Tasmanian engineering firm Johnstone McGee & Gandy (JMG).

"JMG has extensive experience working with the RHH on its current inner-city site. Its involvement will bring a thorough knowledge of Tasmanian issues to the project and will retain project knowledge within the State."

Ms Giddings said the RHH redevelopment is the biggest project any Tasmanian Government has considered.

"It's important that we receive the best advice during the planning stages.

"Over the past six months, the New Royal project team has been working closely with the RHH and the state's medical specialists to develop a functional brief, which outlines the kinds of health services the new hospital will provide and how it will deliver those services.

"The functional brief is now being finalised and will be provided to the architectural and engineering consultants who will begin developing a Master Plan for the new hospital."

Ms Giddings said the consultant team will be finalised in the coming months with the appointment of consultants in quantity surveying, environmentally sustainable design and in civil and structural engineering.

"The Master Plan will contribute to a business case to be finished by the end of the year that will outline what the hospital will need, how it will operate, what it might look like and how much it will cost," Ms Giddings said.

More information on the hospital project can be found at www.newroyal.tas.gov.au.

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