



**THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP**

**Minister for Health and Ageing**

**DUNCAN KERR**

**Member for Denison**

**JULIE COLLINS**

**Member for Franklin**

## **BUDGET 09 – MEDIA RELEASE**

### **NEW HEALTH RESEARCH FACILITY FOR HOBART**

The Rudd Government is allocating \$44.7 million in the 2009-10 Budget to build a new health research facility, located close to the Royal Hobart Hospital.

Research will focus on preventing a range of diseases including cancer, multiple sclerosis, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, osteoporosis, epilepsy and dementia.

The aim is to accelerate development of practical treatments, interventions and preventative measures from ‘bench to bedside’ – that is, from basic research to clinical care for the community.

The Minister for Health and Ageing said that the facility is a joint project between the Menzies Research Institute and the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms Roxon said, “The building will house a Magnetic Resonance Imaging facility, an increased mouse breeding facility, clinical research areas, including an overnight observation ward, renal dialysis observation and teaching area, and outpatient areas. A car park will also be built.

“The five-year project is supported under the Government's nation-building Health and Hospitals Fund, which is building health infrastructure for the 21st century, while also creating employment opportunities.”

The Member for Denison, Duncan Kerr, said that the co-location will bring together teaching, research and medical staff currently dispersed across six geographical locations and allow for a multidisciplinary approach to medical research.

Mr Kerr said, “These types of investments should be welcomed by Tasmanians as a showing of faith in our ability to undertake this specialist work.”

The Member for Franklin, Julie Collins said people living in Tasmania will benefit from an enhanced quality of clinical care through access to research-focused, highly trained clinicians and allied health professionals.

Ms Collins said, “The project will provide jobs for the local building industry, generate economic benefits for the community and attract high quality research and teaching staff.”

The project is expected to begin in 2009, with construction due for completion by December 2012.

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