

Hon Jack Snelling MP

Minister for Health

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Update to plans for Repat site

The State Government has today announced an updated plan for future development at the Repatriation General Hospital site.

A consortium led by South Australian based not-for-profit ACH Group will deliver a unique health, education, ageing and Veterans' precinct at the Repatriation General Hospital site and work closely with RSL SA.

The plan comes after RSL LifeCare New South Wales notified the State Government that the consortium it planned to lead would be unable to deliver.

Veterans' services will be an important part of the 'Open Daws' development that will invest \$200 million into the Repat site. The plan will create up to 1000 new jobs during construction as well as at least 250 ongoing health and ancillary jobs. It will inject \$20 million into the SA economy each year once fully operational.

In addition to ACH Group, the 'Open Daws' consortium includes Adelaide Community Healthcare Alliance, Healthscope, Anglicare, Flinders University and RDNS.

The ACH consortium will collaborate with the Veterans' community throughout the planning and development of the site and will upgrade the Chapel, Remembrance Garden and SPF Hall.

Handover of the site is still expected to occur in late 2017 as previously announced.

Background

In November 2015, SA Health sought Expressions of Interest from private sector and not-for-profit organisations interested in using the site for rehabilitation, health, education, aged care or community-related services.

In May 2016, an evaluation panel, including representatives from SA Health, Department of Treasury and Finance, Renewal SA and an independent probity officer received five submissions as part of the EOI process, of which three aligned with the objectives for the future use of the site. The consortium led by the New South Wales based RSL LifeCare was selected as the preferred tender option. ACH was also one of the three that met the objectives.

Today's announcement comes after the New South Wales based RSL LifeCare informed the State Government that due to internal issues within the consortium, it had to withdraw its submission.

Quotes attributable to Health Minister Jack Snelling

Throughout this process we have made it clear that our priority has been to maintain the Repatriation General Hospital site as a place where the community can access health, education and aged care services.

As soon as it became clear that New South Wales RSL LifeCare consortium may fail to finalise the contract, we engaged the ACH Group-led consortium which had narrowly missed out in the original process.

We've made excellent negotiations with the ACH Group led Open Daws consortium and I am absolutely confident they will deliver an outstanding and unique new precinct for the community.

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Importantly this proposal will enshrine the sites' important history by investing in the Chapel, SPF Hall and Museum and Remembrance Garden.

There has been a strong Veteran involvement in this consortium and I know that Veterans' and the wider community will benefit significantly from this exciting new precinct.

Quotes attributable to ACH Group Chairman, Geoff Holdich

As a South Australian not for profit organisation with a long history of supporting veterans and older South Australians, we are delighted to be able to deliver a unique health, education and ageing precinct at the Repatriation General Hospital.

Community consultation followed by further design work prior to the consortium taking ownership of the site will commence immediately, and include a variety of residential accommodation styles, health, educational, retail and research facilities.

Quotes attributable to RSL State President, Brigadier Tim Hanna AM

As the peak organisation for Veterans in South Australia, we have always indicated our excitement to be part of the future of the iconic Repat site.

We are looking forward to working with the ACH Group led consortium, to ensure the rich history of the Repat site continues.