

This question was asked on Tuesday 31 August 2004 during session 531 and published in the Legislative Council's Q&A Paper 65 . The answer was received on Tuesday 19 October 2004 and published in the Legislative Council's Q&A Paper 74.

## **1219—JUSTICE—LONG BAY HOSPITAL**

**Ms Rhiannon to the Minister for Justice, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—**

- (1) (a) Does the Government have plans to rebuild and partly privatise Long Bay Hospital including privatisation of custodial and security management and educational programs at the facility?
  - (b) If so, please outline the exact plans for this rebuilding and privatisation process?
- (2) What assurances can the Minister provide to prisoners, existing staff and relevant unions that this process will not compromise the quality of services or job security?

### **Answer—**

I have been advised by the Hon Morris Iemma MP, Minister for Health, that the answer to the Honourable Member's question is -

(1) (a) and (b) The Prison Hospital will be a Department of Corrective Services facility and will thus continue with similar custodial, security management and educational programs.

The Forensic Hospital will be built on the site of the existing Long Bay Hospital on land that will be de-gazetted as a prison to allow treatment of forensic patients in a NSW Health facility. Clinical services will continue to be provided by Justice Health, the NSW Government Agency currently responsible for providing health care to forensic prisoners. The new hospital will be a separate facility to the existing gaol but will however have perimeter security equivalent to that of a maximum security facility. This will change the model of care provided to forensic patients in line with that provided in Victoria, New Zealand and the UK. Internally, security will be managed via closely monitored clinical management. The Forensic Hospital patients will have access to computer rooms, group training rooms, art, therapy and industrial training rooms for educational purposes.

The current procurement timetable anticipates the construction of the Prison Hospital and Stage I of the Forensic Hospital being completed by September

**2006** Stage II of the Forensic Hospital is scheduled for completion by September 2007.

(2) The quality of the health service provided will improve. Forensic patients will no longer be housed in a correctional centre, but in a Health facility that will be purpose built to cater to their needs. Prisoners requiring medical/ surgical treatment or mental health treatment will receive care in the Prison Hospital. A 15 bed Aged Care/ Rehabilitation Unit will be built in the Prison Hospital to cater for the needs of the ageing inmate population.

The existing Hospital is a 120 bed facility. The Forensic Hospital will comprise 135 beds while the Prison Hospital will have 85 beds, an increase of 100 beds. Furthermore, the Government's guideline for PFP projects, states that there can be no forced redundancies as a result of a project being procured via PFP.