

## Media Release

**Saturday, 26 October 2013**

### **Co-location of WCH and new RAH is good news for women and children of South Australia**

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation welcomes today's announcement by the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Honourable Jack Snelling, to co-locate the Women's and Children's Hospital (W&CH) at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

ANMF CEO/Secretary, Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars said the co-location of the Women's and Children's Hospital demonstrates a commitment to address the physical and infrastructure capacity that is currently lacking at the current site in North Adelaide.

"We have continuously advocated for the upgrade of current facilities in hospitals across the State. Today's announcement is a crucial step forward for the W&CH."

"It is widely acknowledged that the current W&CH site is ageing and requires enormous infrastructure redevelopment. The future needs of South Australian women and children are difficult to secure on the current land-locked site which limits redevelopment. We also know of the grossly inadequate car parking facilities that limits accessibility to the hospital by patients, visitors and staff," she said.

"We look forward to nurses and midwives having a strong voice in the development of the new site. We will be seeking to influence the direction of the new hospital, including new models of care to improve health care and increase efficiency and safety in providing best practice health care. We will also seek to ensure sufficient car parking on the new site.

Given the anticipated timeframe, we will also be seeking reassurances that a sensible approach will be taken to hospital maintenance and capital works and to ensure the issue of available car-parking is not lost, as the existing hospital still needs to function appropriately in the meantime."

"The ANMF (SA Branch) continues to advocate for effective, efficient and safe models of care. Today's announcement is a step in the right direction in achieving this," said Adj Assoc Professor Dabars.

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CEO/Secretary**