



Parliament of  
South Australia

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**INTERIM  
REPORT  
OF THE  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON**

**PROPOSED SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT  
OF THE GLENSIDE HOSPITAL SITE**

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*Laid on the Table of the Legislative Council and ordered to be printed on 11 September 2008*

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**Third Session, Fifty-First Parliament 2008-2009**

# **1. The Select Committee into the Proposed Sale and Redevelopment of the Glenside Hospital Site**

## **Terms of reference**

On 2 April 2008, the Select Committee was established by the Legislative Council to inquire into and report on the State Government's proposed sale and redevelopment of the Glenside Hospital with specific reference to:

- (a) The effect on the delivery of services of the proposed co-location of mental health, drug and alcohol, rural, regional and State-wide services and the possible security implications
- (b) The effect of the proposed sale of 42% of the site and its impact on the amenity and enjoyment of open space for patients and the public, biodiversity, conservation and significant trees
- (c) The impact of the reduction of the available land for more supported accommodation
- (d) The effect of the proposed sale of precincts 3, 4 and 5 as identified in the State Government's Concept Master Plan for the site and its possible effect on access to the site and traffic management generally
- (e) The proposed sale of precinct 4 by private sale to a preferred purchaser; and
- (f) Other matters that the committee considers relevant.

## **Membership**

The Hon JSL Dawkins MLC (Chairperson)  
The Hon BV Finnigan MLC  
The Hon IK Hunter MLC  
The Hon SM Kanck MLC  
The Hon JMA Lensink MLC

### *Secretary*

Mr G Dickson

### *Research officer*

Ms G Sladden

## **2. Progress to date**

The Select Committee advertised for interested persons to provide written submissions or to register an interest in appearing before it. A list of submissions and witnesses will be provided as part of the Committee's final report.

The Committee visited the Glenside hospital site on Friday 20 June and has met on four other occasions to date to hear evidence. It will continue hearings until later in the year and intends to publish its final report when it has considered all the evidence that has been put before it.

### **3. The interim report**

Incorporating an acute hospital facility and a number of co-located related services, the Committee has heard that the redevelopment of the Glenside hospital site is the focal point of a new approach to mental health care and substance abuse treatment in this state. The success of the redevelopment is critical for the patients, clients, carers and staff involved, and for the whole South Australian community.

In evidence presented to date, the Select Committee has been told that the project is missing a key element: a mental health research and training institute. The Committee believes that the proposed redevelopment presents an excellent opportunity to incorporate such an institute.

The Select Committee is aware that plans for the redevelopment are progressing and believes that it should not delay in putting this idea forward—hence this interim report. Because of the urgency of this matter, and after hearing the evidence so far, at its meeting on 13 August 2008, the Select Committee passed the following motion:

That the Committee produce an interim report recommending that the Government incorporate into its plans for the redevelopment of the Glenside Hospital site the establishment of a mental health research and training institute.

This recommendation relates to section (f) of the Committee's terms of reference, entitled: Other matters that the committee considers relevant. The interim report deals only with the issue of a mental health research and training institute and does not include any other findings or recommendations.

### **4. A Mental Health Research and Training Institute**

The Select Committee heard evidence that South Australia is the only mainland state which does not have a dedicated mental health research centre. This state has a number of mental health training and research bodies, including three departments of psychiatry and psychology and two departments of mental health nursing at its universities. It also has small units scattered across the state that are involved in mental health research but there is no one area which pulls them together and provides leadership, and possibly rationalisation. Hence, the Committee was told, a great deal of information and research work is dissipated.

Mental health data is gathered in a similar way and often not collated in any meaningful way. As the College of Psychiatrists noted, the redevelopment of Glenside presents:

... an ideal opportunity to integrate the research component with an education component, where you can have people from all the disciplines coming through, getting education and seeing the types of research (Evidence, p. 47.)

The Select Committee was told that the Glenside redevelopment 'is a golden opportunity for South Australia to establish ...a centre of excellence in mental health—not just for

psychiatry or the psychiatric discipline but for other mental health disciplines as well'. Dr Giardini, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, evidence, p. 48.)

A mental health research and training institute would provide both critical mass and a focal point for research and training. It would be there for all mental health and related professionals—nurses, social workers, researchers, psychologists and psychiatrists. It has the advantage of being close to two of Adelaide's universities and to major public hospitals which all play a critical role in research and training. It may also provide the opportunity for some rationalisation and economies of scale in terms of training, education and research activities.

The Select Committee believes that the co-location of a research and training facility with the major acute care facility is an essential element for the world-class mental health system envisaged in the government's blueprint for mental health, *Stepping Up: A Social Inclusion Action Plan for Mental Health Reform 2007-2012*.

### **Role**

The Select Committee envisages that the proposed mental health research and training institute would focus on:

- research
- training of mental health and related professionals
- dissemination of health information
- policy development
- awareness raising.

### **Structure**

The Select Committee was informed that the nucleus of a mental health research and training institute is already in existence at Glenside in the form of 'a service improvement area, with three parts'. This area has between 20 and 30 staff and includes research and quality improvement areas and a service department (Professor R Goldney, evidence, p. 56).

### **Funding**

The Select Committee believes that funding for the mental health research and training institute could come from a number of sources, including the private sector (which part funds a similar Victorian institution), government, the universities, and TAFE (which is now involved in some basic nursing training). It is also possible that the Commonwealth Government would be a contributor. The Select Committee heard evidence that the present mental health training centre is contracted out to the University of New South Wales Institute of Psychiatry (Evidence, Professor R Goldney, p. 56). The creation of a local centre of excellence in this state would obviate the need for this funding arrangement.

## **5. A collaborative endeavour**

The Select Committee does not wish to be prescriptive about the role, structure and composition of such a mental health research and training institute nor about how it would be funded. It believes that these details are best worked out through a consultative process involving government, the relevant professional bodies, the universities, consumers and other key stakeholders.

## **6. Recommendation**

After considering the evidence presented to it on this topic, the Select Committee recommends:

That plans for the redevelopment of the Glenside Hospital site be amended to include a state-of-the-art mental health research and training institute for South Australia.

The Hon JSL Dawkins MLC

**Chairperson**

**Select Committee on Proposed Sale and Redevelopment of the Glenside Hospital Site**

11 September 2008