

Fiona Stanley Hospital leads WA's health system renewal

In 2004, the Reid Report¹ set out a clear direction for the Western Australian public health system for the next decade and beyond. It determined how our hospitals and health services should be reconfigured to cater for the State's growing population and future demand for health services.

Successive State Governments have since committed to the most ambitious and widespread health reform program ever undertaken in Western Australia. As part of this, WA's hospital system is being transformed through a unprecedented investment in new and expanded hospitals.

The development of Fiona Stanley Hospital is an essential part of this hospital reconfiguration. When complete, it will be the major tertiary hospital in the south – a \$1.76 billion facility that will offer comprehensive health care services to communities in the south of Perth and across Western Australia.

What is a tertiary hospital?

A tertiary hospital is a teaching and learning facility that provides specialised acute health care and offers highly specialised services.

Tertiary hospitals usually deal with conditions that are rare, complex, unusually severe, or complicated by other disorders. Cutting-edge research is also usually undertaken at tertiary hospitals.

What is a general hospital?

A general hospital typically provides for most of the health needs of its population and includes an Emergency Department, 24-hour anaesthetic cover, high dependency units, general surgery capacity (including day surgery), obstetrics, general medical and geriatric services, general paediatrics, some rehabilitation and mental health services and a centre for diagnostics, treatment and ambulatory care.

How is our hospital system changing?

The changes to our hospital system will make it easier for people to access medical care for a wider range of conditions closer to home.

Under the current hospital system, there are four tertiary hospitals in the metropolitan area, two of which are located within five kilometres of each other. More than a quarter of residents in the southern metropolitan area often travel long distances to the north of the Swan River for tertiary care.

A new tertiary hospital at Murdoch, supported by the network of general hospitals in the southern metropolitan area, will see more appropriate care provided closer to home and more efficient use of health resources.

People with the most serious illnesses and injuries will be treated at Fiona Stanley Hospital, while our general hospitals in the south metropolitan area will offer more beds and a wider range of inpatient and ambulatory clinical services to ensure more people can be treated at a hospital closer to home.

1. *A Healthy Future for Western Australians*, Report of the Health Reform Committee, March 2004.

For more information

Phone: 1800 659 475

Email: fsh@health.wa.gov.au

Visit: www.fionastanley.health.wa.gov.au



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**