



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

Media Release

March 30, 2010

Major boost for training and to Mersey Hospital

Young medical, dental and allied health students will all gain from a new centre for excellence in rural clinical training at the Mersey Community Hospital, says the Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom MP.

Mr Sidebottom said the \$1.484 million in funding for the project would help to build on the strong future for the Mersey Community Hospital.

The University of Tasmania's Rural Clinical School is among 22 projects to be funded under the project, aimed at bolstering Australia's rural health workforce.

"The project at the Mersey will allow centralised clinical training in a modern and well-equipped setting which can only mean better outcomes for all students," Mr Sidebottom said.

"The Rudd Government is determined to do whatever possible to attract more doctors, nurses, dentists and other health professionals to regional and rural areas like the North-West and West of Tasmania.

"The Rural Clinical School already has a great track record in this area, and this expansion will only make their work easier and more rewarding for both students and staff."

However, Mr Sidebottom said the upgrade would further strengthen the Mersey's position as a vital part of the health infrastructure of the North-West and Tasmania as a whole.

"With the support of the University and other partners, the Mersey Community Hospital is finding its niche and will only improve its standing with this important new facility," he said.

The project will include a clinical skills and simulation centre, learning hub and breakout space, multi-use teaching area and quiet study area, along with facilities for staff and students.

The current area used by the Rural Clinical School will also be redeveloped for use in other hospital activities.

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