



## First look at Gold Coast super hospital

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AN exclusive first glimpse of the new Gold Coast University Hospital has revealed a massive precinct of stunning, ultra-modern buildings dedicated to specialties such as cardiac care, mental health and cancer services.

The design of the hospital, which has taken more than a year to finalise and is unveiled here for the first time, also shows peaceful parks surrounding the precinct while light-filled courtyards and a huge glass atrium separate the buildings. A small shopping centre and coffee shops are included in the \$1.55 billion project at Parklands.

Construction is due to begin mid-2009, with the hospital ready for patients by the end of 2012.

The Gold Coast Bulletin can exclusively reveal the designs for the hospital which will be officially unveiled by Premier Anna Bligh today at a Community Expo. Ms Bligh urged residents to visit the expo -- to be held over two days at the Sharks Southport AFL Club -- to see what the future holds for our health services.

Designers, planners and health professionals will be available to explain the project with the help of a large model of the hospital and a computer-animated fly-through. "The detailed plans and virtual tour of the new Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) illustrate just how significant and exciting this project is," said Ms Bligh.

"It will be around four times the size of the current Gold Coast Hospital and include a range of expanded services, including cancer, cardiac, neurosciences, trauma and neo-natal intensive care. "It will have 750 beds, almost 300 more than the current hospital, and importantly it has room to grow as the demand for services in the region increases over time.

"This is about delivering to the people of the Gold Coast a world-class health facility that will offer the high standard of services they deserve." Ms Bligh said the new hospital also meant more jobs for the area. Up to 2500 people are expected to be employed at the peak of construction of this facility, and the workforce within the new hospital is expected to be twice that -- almost double the current workforce of 2700.

"As a training hospital, the GCUH will also enhance the medical education and training offered by facilities like Griffith and Bond Universities, the new Queensland Academy for Health Sciences and TAFE Queensland, making it a breeding ground for Queensland's doctors and nurses of tomorrow," she said. Health Minister Stephen Robertson said construction was expected to start in mid-2009, with completion in 2012.

"I want to thank the hundreds of people, including specialists, nurses, allied health staff, support staff, local health consumers, architects and other design consultants who have been working tirelessly over the past 18 months to ensure the new hospital will be the best it can be to meet the needs of the local community," he said.

"It is the Gold Coast community that will benefit and I urge all interested residents to visit the expo and experience the future of Gold Coast health services for themselves.

"It's a great opportunity for the local community to speak directly with the designers, planners and health professionals about the design of the new facility and how it will meet local health needs."

The expo at the Sharks Southport Australian Football Club will be open today between 4.30pm and 8.30pm, and tomorrow between 9am and 2pm.