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MEDIA RELEASE

## **Bigger and better emergency department for Liverpool**

**Liverpool Hospital Emergency Department is being redeveloped into a state-of-the-art leading edge facility more than double its current size.**

Construction on the \$9.1 million project expected to begin early this year will be carried out in four stages and is scheduled for completion in the first half of 2005.

The number of adult acute and sub-acute beds will increase from 15 to 36 including two additional resuscitation bays for treating major traumas and life-threatening conditions making a total of six bays.

In addition to the 36 adult beds, the department will also feature a dedicated six-bed paediatric area and a new 10-bed Emergency Observation Unit.

Liverpool Health Service acting general manager Dr Teresa Anderson said the redevelopment and additional resources would have a major positive impact on patients and staff.

“With the increased capacity we will be able to improve the way we manage our large number of patients, treat them faster and meet the demands of our rapidly growing population in south western Sydney,” she said.

Liverpool Hospital’s Emergency Department, one of the busiest in the State, currently sees an average of 140 patients every day, while service demand is increasing by 6 per cent each year.

The final number, including treatment and procedure rooms, a plaster room and safe observation rooms will total 65 treatment spaces.

“Staff will have a new, more spacious working environment and we will be increasing staff numbers to work in the expanded department including the appointment of a second trauma surgeon making the hospital the only one in the country with two full time dedicated trauma surgeons,” Dr Anderson said.

Liverpool Hospital’s Emergency Department includes one of the country’s leading major trauma centres and the new six-bed resuscitation area will allow for a more manageable Statewide trauma response for multiple casualties.

Other features include a state-of-the-art overhead digital X-ray machine suspended from the ceiling creating more working space for staff and making the resuscitation area the most modern in the State.

Three isolation rooms will all have individual ventilation to contain any risk of infection, one of which will be a resuscitation room.

The new building will allow easier access for critically ill patients to undergo early life-saving surgery in the operating theatres, directly above the department.

The rooftop helipad will have direct lift access to the Emergency Department and resuscitation rooms.

The Emergency Department is the front line for Liverpool Hospital and staff, community representatives and other stakeholders were involved in planning for the new facility.

**For further information contact South Western Sydney Area Health Service Public Affairs on 9828 5700.**