

media release



Thursday 22nd May 2008

HMRI moves forward with world class research facility

The Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) is continuing to develop its plans for a world class health and medical research facility for the Hunter region.

HMRI, a joint venture between the University of Newcastle, Hunter New England Health and the community, today announced the appointment of APP Corporation Pty Ltd as Project Director for the joint HMRI and University of Newcastle research facility.

“The appointment of a Project Director enables HMRI to progress planning, and at the same time, explore options to finalise the remaining funding which hopefully will come through the Federal Government’s new Health and Hospitals Fund,” said the Chair of the HMRI Board, Bob Kennedy.

Mr Kennedy said the facility would support the continued growth of HMRI, which is already the third largest institute of its kind in NSW.

“Ten years ago the Hunter had 100 researchers. Today, there are over 600. To continue this growth we need world class facilities and this building will be a huge step forward in ensuring HMRI remains at the forefront of health and medical research.

“This facility will attract leading researchers, clinicians, and the best doctors and health specialists to the Hunter, ensuring that our community receives the best health care.

“Construction of the building will inject \$178 million to the Hunter region’s economy and will create 670 new jobs, independent analysis by the Hunter Valley Research Foundation indicates.

“World class facilities, supported by outstanding researchers, will provide long term career opportunities for researchers in the Hunter, reversing the loss of our researchers to interstate and overseas laboratories.”

APP Corporation’s Northern NSW Regional Manager Peter McNally said: “We are honoured to have the opportunity for our local team to work with HMRI on such an important project for the region.”

HMRI is a partnership between the University of Newcastle, Hunter New England Health and the community.

Bob Kennedy is available for interview.

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