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Queensland’s pioneering children’s health research facility named

The new home for child and adolescent research in Queensland will be known as the Centre for Children’s Health Research, Children’s Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service Board Chair Susan Johnston announced today.

The $134 million facility, currently under construction next to the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital in South Brisbane, is the result of a partnership between Queensland Health through Children’s Health Queensland and several of the state’s leading research organisations, including the Queensland Children’s Medical Research Institute (QCMRI), Queensland University of Technology (QUT), University of Queensland (UQ) and the Translational Research Institute (TRI).

Ms Johnston said the project represented the largest ever investment in child and adolescent health research in Queensland’s history.

“It is our vision for this facility to be an international centre of excellence,” Ms Johnston said.

“For the first time in Queensland, this centre will house dedicated child and adolescent health researchers in one location, right next to the state’s specialist paediatric teaching hospital, which is in line with international best practice.”

Researchers from the current Royal Children’s and Mater Children’s hospitals will transfer to the centre, along with staff from partners QCMRI, QUT, UQ and TRI.

Childhood cancer, infectious diseases, physical activity and obesity, and burns and wound repair are among the topics of research to occur in the centre.

Children’s Health Queensland chief executive Dr Peter Steer said the collaboration of such high-calibre child and adolescent health researchers with the nearby specialist Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital would set new standards in paediatric care in Queensland.

“As the state’s only dedicated child and adolescent research centre it has the potential to attract some of the best of the best to Queensland, which will ultimately benefit our children and young people,” Dr Steer said.

“The goal is to translate research findings into better care and outcomes for our patients at the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital.”
The Centre for Children’s Health Research will have nine levels and house wet and dry laboratories, pathology services, retail space in the foyer. It will be linked to the new Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital via a staff service tunnel.

Designed to accommodate more than 450 staff, the centre has also been future-proofed to allow for expansion as required.

Construction of the centre is on track to be complete in late 2014.

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