

## Media Statement

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### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**26/03/07**

#### **Trauma Ward under construction**

Work has started on Western Australia's first dedicated trauma ward at Royal Perth Hospital - an \$8 million project.

When open in early 2008, severely injured patients will receive coordinated care in the one ward from the state's leading trauma clinicians.

RPH currently houses the state's adult trauma centre and has spent the past year moving clinics to prepare for the ward, which will contain 30 new trauma beds and 10 state-of-the-art beds for adult burn patients.

Trauma can result from events such as the Indonesian plane crash and Cyclone George. Many RPH trauma patients are injured on WA roads.

The RPH Trauma Service receives about 520 life or limb threatening cases of trauma a year.

The State's first dedicated Trauma Service was established at the Hospital last year, with doctors, nurses, allied health specialists and research nurses all working to ensure continuity of care for victims of traumas such as motor vehicle accidents and falls.

Trauma Service head Dr Sudhakar Rao said the main focus of the service was to ensure the best possible outcomes for every patient who received a trauma injury.

Dr Rao said trauma patients usually suffered multiple, complex injuries, and had to be treated holistically to ensure that all their injuries were treated according to world's best standards.

"These injuries are very serious and the patients require more intense physical care, from specialists," he said.

"By keeping trauma patients in one area, we can ensure that they receive coordinated care from all the various expert teams including physical therapists, dieticians, psychologists, doctors, surgeons and nurses," he said.

"We can also start to focus on areas of care that were difficult to co-ordinate when trauma patients were scattered to different wards."

He said the Trauma Service team worked to ensure that the trauma patient was cared for in the best possible manner - from the time they entered the emergency department through to rehabilitation and discharge.

To make room for the trauma ward, RPH's main outpatient clinic was moved into the old Perth Dental Hospital building across the road in Goderich Street.

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