



Media Release

SA Health

23 July, 2010

Berri Hospital celebrates 50 years with time capsule

Riverland Health Service will bury a time capsule at Berri Hospital to commemorate its fiftieth year at the Maddern Street site.

Director of the Riverland Health Service Tom Neilson said the time capsule, crafted by a local business, is a fitting way to celebrate the hospital.

“When it was built, the Berri District Hospital was described as ‘a fine example of community achievement, encapsulating the enthusiasm and can-do attitude’ of the day,” Mr Neilson said.

“Today, the hospital remains testament to the ongoing community spirit that is so much a part of our cohesive Riverland communities.”

“The time capsule will be an enduring reminder of that spirit and give future generations insight into the hospital’s development and its local significance.”

The time capsule will be on display at the Berri District Hospital Open Day, held from 12 noon until 4pm on Sunday 1 August.

“Berri District Hospital is, in many ways, a community hub and the services it offers contribute to and complement its role in maintaining the health of our community,” Mr Neilson said.

“I encourage anyone who would like to contribute memorabilia of the hospital’s past, including photographs and newspaper articles, to contact Riverland Health Service or speak with staff on hand at the Open Day.”

In 1960, the 37 bed Berri District Hospital was built on its current North Berri site after it outgrew the original premises on Coneybeer Street. Situated on 15 acres, the ‘new’ hospital cost £120,000 to build and was opened by then Premier Sir Thomas Playford on 29 July 1960.

The State Government’s \$41 million redevelopment of the Berri Hospital is underway, with builders to be appointed in coming weeks.

Expressions of interest for the building contract closed on Friday 9 July.

When complete, the hospital redevelopment will include an expanded and refurbished emergency department, two fully equipped theatres, enhanced mental health and palliative care services, and renal dialysis services will double from two chairs to four.

For more information

Call the SA Health Media Line
Telephone: 08 8226 6488