Berri Hospital marks 50th with redevelopment progress report

Riverland Health Service will celebrate one milestone this Sunday while looking to the next, as Berri District Hospital reaches its 50th anniversary.

As part of this weekend’s Open Day, Riverland Health Service Director Tom Neilson and members of the project team will outline the progress made towards the hospital’s $41 million redevelopment.

“Sunday’s celebrations give our community an opportunity to reflect on Berri Hospital’s half-century and look to the next fifty years,” Mr Neilson said.

“Our hospitals and health services are, in many ways, the cornerstones of our communities.”

“They are where our children are born, where many Riverlanders work, and where we come to be cared for when we are ill or injured - our histories are interwoven.”

“Redeveloping Berri District Hospital is the next milestone and the largest State funded capital works project being undertaken by Country Health SA.”

The redevelopment planning is well underway, with builders to be appointed shortly and the design team working on the final concept plans, which will be presented to the community in coming months.

“When complete, the hospital redevelopment will provide upgraded and enhanced delivery of services throughout the Riverland,” Mr Neilson said.

“It is an exciting project for the region and I look forward to sharing our progress to date at the Berri Hospital 50th Anniversary Open Day on Sunday.”

Earlier this year, Health Minister John Hill announced Woodhead Architects, Aurecon, and Davis Langdon had been appointed to the design team.

The Berri District Hospital was built on its current North Berri site in 1960. Situated on 15 acres, the ‘new’ 37 bed hospital cost £120,000 to build and was opened by then Premier Sir Thomas Playford on 29 July 1960.

When complete, the redeveloped hospital 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.