

PRESS RELEASE

MT. GRAVATT HOSPITAL

The Prime Minister today visited the site which the Queensland Government has been holding for a hospital at Mt. Gravatt.

Mr Whitlam said that the sorry history of the proposal for a major teaching hospital complex at Mt Gravatt was yet another instance of how the Queensland Government's unwillingness to co-operate with the Australian Government stopped Queenslanders from getting the benefits of essential services.

"In the 1973 Budget the Australian Government offered Queensland \$250,000 for initial planning for the Mt Gravatt teaching hospital complex. To date they have spent only \$110,000 and claim that the project has a low priority and will not be required before the 1980s," the Prime Minister said.

"The Australian Government will pay the whole cost of the new Griffith University and has offered to pay the whole cost of the teaching hospital.

"A teaching hospital ought to be in operation as soon as possible after the University opens, but so far the Queensland Government has ignored our offer to fund the major teaching hospital complex.

"Residents of the southern metropolitan area and of the Gold Coast urgently need access to the comprehensive medical services that the proposed hospital complex at Mount Gravatt would provide.

"Meanwhile the most overgrown and overcrowded hospital complex in Australia, the Royal Brisbane Hospital, has a major expansion under construction.

"Mr Tooth now proposes a further major expansion in the inner city area, on the overcrowded mater hospital site, before proceeding at Mount Gravatt.

"The Australian Government is convinced by the expert opinions expressed by hospital administrators for years, that major teaching hospital facilities in Brisbane need decentralising urgently," he said.

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