



PRIME MINISTER

3 DECEMBER 1974

MT GRAVATT HOSPITAL

The Prime Minister said in Canberra tonight that consideration was being given to the possibility of moving the proposed Mt Gravatt Hospital to a site at Cooper's Plains.

Mr Whitlam said that the Joint Hospitals Works Council for Queensland had discussed this matter at its last meeting on 19 November.

This followed the Queensland Premier's rejection of a proposal that the Australian Government take over responsibility for the Mt Gravatt Hospital project to speed up its construction.

Mr Whitlam said that the Under Secretary of the Queensland Department of Health had agreed to inspect the Cooper's Plains site with a view to making a recommendation to the Queensland Minister for Health on the suitability and feasibility of that site for the proposed hospital.

Mr Whitlam said consideration was also being given to a Queensland proposal to rebuild the Mater Hospital on its present site in South Brisbane. He said that discussions were currently taking place between the Queensland Health Department, the Board of the Mater Hospital and the Hospitals and Health Services Commission. They would assess the possibility of splitting available funds to finance some limited rebuilding on the Site at South Brisbane as well as the construction of a new 150-200 bed hospital at Inala.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.