

Dr Ruben Sebben

I am a consultant radiologist at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital with 31 years of continuous service. I am also strongly believe in the maintaining acute care services and bed numbers at the QEH, both of which have been progressively eroded over the last 15 years.

The hospital drains over 250,000 people in the western suburbs of Adelaide and also provides critically needed services to rural areas of the State, particularly the Iron Triangle.

The western suburbs of Adelaide are home to the some of the most elderly and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities in Australia. They also have very high incidences of chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In addition, the western suburbs have the largest percentage of migrants in SA who do not have English as their first language.

There are many examples of hospitals being rebuilt on-site, both within Australia and overseas. At the present moment, there are at least five major on site hospital rebuilds in the UK, some with double the bed number of the RAH. The oldest of these is St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, located on the same site since 1123. The cost of these rebuilds is very similar to that estimated by the Save the RAH Party, and substantially lower than cost of the railway site hospital.

Rebuilding the RAH on existing site will not only provide a vast improvement in patient accommodation, but will also preserve the unique research and teaching facilities resulting from its collocation with the University of Adelaide Medical School.

The \$1 billion dollars saved by retaining the existing infrastructure could be used to both improve services in peripheral hospitals like TQEH and Modbury, thus taking the strain off the RAH, and to provide much needed upgrades to health services and infrastructure in rural SA.

Supporting the Save the RAH Party will ensure the people of SA will receive maximum benefit for every health dollar spent.