



Nelson Mandela CHILDREN's HOSPITAL

A family dedicated to care

How will the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital affect funding for other hospitals?

The Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital (NMCH) does not aim to compete with other hospitals – it will complement them and their work in paediatric medicine, and will not affect funding initiatives for other South African hospitals.

What about primary and secondary health care?

Primary and secondary healthcare facilities will continue to be taken care of by the State. It was found that the biggest backlog is in the treatment of level-3 (tertiary) care for children. For example, at one South African hospital, there is an estimated backlog of 300 children awaiting cardiac surgery. This could result in some of them dying without this needed surgery.

Who will fund the running of the Hospital?

Capital funding of NMCH will come entirely from donors, and once the Hospital has been established, its operational expenditure will be funded by the National Department of Health, through the Treasury funding regulations.

How did you choose the Centres of Excellence?

Research and consultation with various clinical specialists showed that the biggest gap in paediatric healthcare, and therefore the biggest need, was in treating conditions associated with certain specialities. NMCH will have the following Centres of Excellence: Haematology & Oncology; Cardiology & Cardiothoracic Surgery; Neurosciences; Renal; Endocrine; Craniofacial; and Paediatric Surgery.

An initiative of Nelson Mandela Children's Fund



Nelson Mandela
CHILDREN'S FUND



CHANGING THE WAY SOCIETY TREATS ITS CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Why have the Hospital in South Africa?

NMCH will be in Parktown near Wits Medical School in Johannesburg. Gauteng is the hub of South Africa and many developments in Southern Africa. South Africa has among the best healthcare professionals in the world, and with the Hospital in Gauteng, it will mean patients have access to world-class health care through NMCH's collaboration with other medical institutions. In addition, Johannesburg being the hub of South Africa and a gateway to the region means the Hospital will be easily accessible by public transport and by air.

Why have a dedicated children's hospital?

Children's healthcare needs are different from those of adults, and having a dedicated facility that caters for children (from neonates up to a 14 years old), as opposed to a paediatric centre in an "adult" hospital, means NMCH will be a child-friendly environment with an ethos focussed on a well-rounded healing experience for children. It also ensures that the Hospital is specifically designed and equipped for their needs.

How were the architects chosen?

Architects from around the world, with children's hospital design experience, were invited to be part of an architectural design competition, where the most-qualified bidders were chosen to present design proposals. A panel of qualified professionals from various industries then scored them and the top four bidders were interviewed. The collective that was chosen consists of Sheppard Robson and John Cooper Architecture (both from the UK), working with GAPP Architects and Ruben Reddy Architects (both from South Africa). The collaboration with South African architects was to bring capacity to the local industry and ensure that it conforms to local conditions and meets statutory architectural requirements.

The hospital costs appear to be high in comparison with other hospitals. Why is this?

Tertiary services are expensive by their nature, and paediatric tertiary services are even more expensive. This is due to the high-tech equipment required to diagnose and treat children. The costs for NMCH are on par with international norms.

How will the NMCH be staffed?

Management: The NMCH Trust will establish a Hospital Board of Directors to manage and run the day-to-day operations of the Hospital. The Board will appoint the senior executive team, consisting of a CEO, CFO, COO, Head of Nursing, Head of Clinical Services and so forth.

Clinical staff will be jointly appointed with the provincial Department of Health, and would be augmented, where required, by expertise from the private sector. Nursing staff and allied workers will be employed by NMCH. Non-core services will be outsourced to an appropriate hospital management company. The severe shortage of paediatric specialists and nurses has a direct correlation to the cost of training and retaining these professionals.

How will NMCH change the lives of children?

There are nearly 450 million children in Africa, and only four children's hospitals – two in Cairo, one in Kenya and one in Cape Town. The children of Africa have limited access to paediatric care as it is, and without the NMCH, a countless number of children could die due to an inability to afford or access healthcare facilities. NMCH will also create capacity in the region so that more children can be treated, the waiting lists will be shorter, and reduce the child mortality rate.