

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESENTED BY MR F.J. FINNAN**  
**17 August 1944**

During the last twelve months we have seen much hospital progress. You will remember that in the last annual report, I intimated that the board was preparing to finalise the plans of the new hospital and hoped to arrange for the laying of the foundation stone in the near future.

The Board did make an early decision in accepting the plans submitted to the Government Architect.

Whilst accepting the present plan for a 33 bed building, your board was also unanimous in having the plans based on an ultimate 100 bed hospital.

On November 19th, 1943, the Hon. C. Kelly, M.L.A. Minister for Health officially laid the foundation stone.

At this stage we were working on the Stg 6000 held in the banks by the Board and collected over many years through the hard and enthusiastic work of the hospital minded residents of the Brisbane Water Districts. To this was added a Government guaranteed loan from the State Superannuation Board of Stg 19,000.

Our first objective was a Stg 25,000 building.

Later on because of the representations made by your Board, the Government through the Hospitals' Commission made us a grant of Stg 6,000 in order that our Hospital should have a complete maternity unit incorporated.

This took building costs to Stg 31,000. Since then, because of increased costs of materials and stoppages of work on account of wet weather hold-ups, building costs had increased the cost of completion to Stg 35,000.

Your Board, asked for and received a further Government grant of Stg 4,000 to meet this situation.

Your Board is pleased to report, on the advice of the Chief Government Architect, that the Hospital buildings will be completed before the end of October.

The eight or nine weeks between now and then will be necessary to finish the engineering services, as extreme difficulty has been met in obtaining some of the materials necessary for this section of the work.

Your Board has also been advised by the Hospitals' Commission that within about three months from now the major part of furnishing and equipment will be secured and placed in position.

This means, that all going well and according to schedule we shall open the hospital in December this year.

As the extent of the work included in the cost of Stg 35,000 is confined to the erection of building only, your Board will consider at its next meeting a comprehensive scheme of ground development including the roads, kerbs, pathways, fencing etc. In this regard it would appear that the expenditure will be in the vicinity of Stg 5,000 and your board will ask the Government to supply this amount.

The Board wishes to publicly express its thanks and appreciation to those people who are responding so magnificently to the appeal for funds for the furnishing and equipment of the Hospital.

The estimated cost in this direction prepared by the Hospitals Commission is about Stg5,600. The Board Secretary, Mr Davidson and the Equipment Fund organisers Messrs Arkins and Wallwork, advise that this amount will be reached by the conclusion of the drive in October next.

To these gentlemen, the Board wishes to express its sincere thanks for the time and hard work they are giving in this direction.

We also express our appreciation to those good people for unselfishly forming themselves into District Hospital Auxiliaries.

To the Doctors of the District we express our thanks.

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