University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor unveils vision for Westmead campus

The University of Sydney’s Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence visited Westmead precinct yesterday to introduce the University’s vision for its future in western Sydney.

Research excellence, new educational offerings and collaboration were the key themes, with an emphasis on the ongoing changes and redevelopment of the Westmead precinct.

The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged Westmead as a key focus for the new University vision and championed the early initiatives of the precinct.

“In Westmead we have a remarkable opportunity as a university,” Dr Spence said.

“We're thinking about what it will mean for the University as a whole and the health system to work genuinely together,” Dr Spence said. Interactive exhibits showcased new technological advancements in dentistry as well as new course offerings, such as the Masters of Nursing (Graduate Entry) program the University will deliver at Westmead from March 2016.

Displays enabled the University of Sydney to communicate its ongoing commitment to remodeling its Westmead campus services.

Plans for the first phase include new learning spaces, video conferencing upgrades, an innovation hub, and information technology upgrades.

Dr Spence encouraged feedback from the Westmead community about the University’s strategic direction, as it seeks to increase its Westmead campus student numbers from 1,500 to 6,000 over the next twenty years.

Dr Spence also said the future focus for the University of Sydney represents a return to the original hospital development plan for an integrated university and health service.

“We regard this precinct as our heartland,” Dr Spence said.

“We are keen to work with Western Sydney University and other universities to meet the needs of our precinct partners and the communities we serve.”