

\$220m facelift agreed for QEH

\$10m for nurses school

The Finance Committee has agreed to give Queen Elizabeth Hospital a major facelift to provide more specialised units and to create more than 200 beds at a cost of about \$220 million.

Approval was recently given for the construction of a new eight-storey extension to Block B, in addition to a new clinical pathology building.

The facilities to be accommodated in this new extension will include two medical wards, two children's wards, an intensive therapy unit, a coronary care unit/cardiac laboratory, a second class female ward and electrodiagnostic unit, together with offices, library, conference and examination rooms.

Following a more detailed review of requirements and considering the development potential, the Director of Medical and Health Services has also proposed stretching the scope of this project to provide further facilities.

His proposals call for the provision of a special care paediatric ward, a renal unit, a school of nursing for post-basic studies, a custodial ward, an expanded medical staff library, an extension of the existing mortuary, installation of additional lifts, air-conditioning for all wards and conversion of the present custodial ward and seminar room into an observation/isolation ward for disturbed patients.

According to the latest re-

port of the Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee, the project will cost \$219.3 million and on completion, the bed capacity of Queen Elizabeth Hospital will be increased by 238 beds.

The breakdown of new beds will be 74 in the two medical wards, 100 in the two children's neo-natal wards, 17 in the paediatric special care unit, 18 in the intensive therapy unit, eight in the cardiac care unit, 14 in the renal unit, two more beds in the custodial ward (28 beds to be transferred from existing accommodation) and five in the second-class ward (20 beds to be transferred from present location).

With regard to the special-care paediatric ward, this will

be in line with facilities already approved for Queen Mary Hospital and in existence at Tuen Mun Hospital.

The ward will provide accommodation for mothers to stay overnight with their sick children and special-care rooms for isolation and reverse-isolation cases.

Turning to the new renal unit, this will establish a further 14 Government-owned dialysis machines. (There are 12 and 16 such machines in use at Queen Mary and Princess Margaret hospitals respectively).

This measure is part and parcel of the Finance Committee's projection, in order to meet increasing demand, to establish 220 machines by 1989.

The proposed School of Nursing for Post-Basic Studies will be located in the new clinical pathology block.

The present school, in Block D, only has a total area of 178 square metres and because of its limited space and facilities, it has had to turn away many registered nurses seeking post-basic training.

In addition, the current waiting time for admission was considered unduly long. For example, there is a two-year wait for the midwifery course.

The new custodial ward will be custom-built, based on the requirements of the Commissioner of Correctional Services.

It will occupy one whole floor in the new clinical pathology block where it is anticipated that physical layout and security will be greatly improved.

An expanded medical staff library will provide a minimum floor area of 420 square metres in accordance with the recommendations by the Library Association of the United Kingdom and the Canadian Standard for Hospital Libraries. This additional space will be an improvement on the present 295 square metres and should provide adequate accommodation for modern requirements.

Other proposals include extending the existing mortuary by 32 cold chambers, air-conditioning all hospital wards and converting the "old" custodial ward into a Prosthetic Unit.

The extension of the psychiatric nurse training school at the Castle Peak hospital is actively underway.

And the \$10 million project has now been upgraded to category AB, it was revealed in the latest report of the public works sub-committee of the Finance Committee.

The existing training school, which has an annual intake of 60 psychiatric pupil nurses, is located in the administration block of the Castle Peak hospital.

It is considered that in the longer term, a properly constructed and equipped training school is desirable.

Therefore, the Director of Medical and Health Services recommended that a permanent new block be constructed to accommodate the expanded training school and to provide additional accommodation.

At present, there are two schools for their training at Castle Peak hospital and the Princess Margaret hospital.

The annual intake of these two schools is 60 and 120 respectively.

This extension project was originally proposed to increase the annual intake of psychiatric trainee nurses at Castle Peak hospital from 60 to 100.