

\$9.5 billion spent on medical projects

BY SUSIE WELDON

THE Hospital Authority spent more than \$9.5 billion on 27 major hospital and clinical projects in 1991-92, according to its annual report.

The report, tabled in the Legislative Council yesterday, said a further 11 large projects were at the planning stage when the authority took over all public hospitals in December 1991.

The largest single project under construction was the 1,620-bed Pamela Youde Hospital in Chai Wan. Other projects included the 700-bed Sha Tin Infirmary and Convalescent Hospital and the Argyle Ophthalmic Centre.

In addition to these large capital works projects, there were more than 200 small improvement and maintenance projects in public hospitals. The report highlighted

the beginning of a new era in public hospital services.

This included a new public complaints system, new management initiatives and greater staff communication initiatives.

The authority also completed a number of reviews.

They included a study of its priority information needs, to enable the authority to plan its overall information technology strategy.

Reviews of staff requirements and roles were also begun in 1991-92, the report said.

Secretary for Health and Welfare Elizabeth Wong, who tabled the report, said that by 31 March, 54 per cent of the 34,000 eligible staff in former public and subvented hospitals had opted for Hospital Authority terms.

These included 93 per cent of former subvented hospital staff and 30 per cent of civil servants.