

## New life breathed into the old Repat Hospital



### BRAD CROUCH

THE Repatriation General Hospital site has been sold to the Adelaide-based ACH Group and work will begin on a seven-year, \$200 million redevelopment when the site is handed over in December.

The contract has been signed for an undisclosed amount and a masterplan is expected to be finalised by November for a "vibrant village"

with housing including various aged care facilities allowing people to age well in homes suited to their needs.

There will be healthcare facilities, student and veterans' housing, research and education facilities, offices and retail outlets including cafes.

The chapel, museum and remembrance garden will form the centrepiece of a village the developers say will be an inter-generational hub welcoming to

the public rather than a gated aged care community.

The right to develop the site originally was won by NSW-based RSL LifeCare but when it pulled out it went to the Open Daws consortium led by not-for-profit ACH Group.

However, some consortium partners have pursued other options and while ACH Group is still working with some partners, it has purchased the site on its own.

ACH Group chief executive Ray Green said consultation will help shape the precinct.

"ACH Group is proud of its long history of serving veterans and is continuing to talk with veterans' groups and their supporters about our commitment to preserve the spirit of the site and its unique place in the heart of South Australians," he said.

"Our vision is about good lives for older people."

