

Media Release



Business As Usual at Ramsay Hospitals following Date Change Over

Hospitals of one of Australia's major healthcare providers, Ramsay Health Care, have reported no apparent problems following the year 2000 date changeover and are operating *business as usual* through the New Year period.

Ramsay Health Care Managing Director Mr Pat Grier said the smooth transition through the date change over period for Ramsay's 14 hospitals was a reflection of over 18 months of preparation and planning by the Company for the potential consequences of the Y2K event.

However, Mr Grier said Ramsay Health Care was not resting on its laurels yet and were conscious that problems could still occur so a team of Y2K experts and support staff remained on duty at each Hospital to ensure everything continued to function smoothly.

"A specially appointed company-wide project team has been working on the Y2K project since July 1998 to ensure that all hospitals of Ramsay Health Care were on target with respect to preparation and contingency planning for the year 2000 rollover period," Mr Grier said.

"A comprehensive program of computer and medical equipment testing and vendor and third party assessments has been conducted during this time to ensure the operational continuity of our facilities and services during the year 2000 date change and into the future.

"Our patients, staff, health professionals and the community were entitled to expect that our hospitals and health services were thoroughly prepared for the year 2000 date change over and that the high standards of our facilities and services were maintained – we have not let them down in this regard."

Mr Grier said the Company had acknowledged external provider failures (electricity, water and telecommunications) were not within their immediate control and therefore had focussed year 2000 preparations and contingency planning to address such critical failures and to ensure any disruption to services were kept to a minimum.

He thanked the staff and medical practitioners of all Ramsay facilities for their extra input and effort both in the lead up to, during and following this critical period.

"Many of our staff and medical practitioners were required to work on New Year's Eve to ensure that the safety, comfort and care of our patients was not compromised. Their dedication and commitment is very much appreciated by Ramsay Health Care."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
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