

# WCH doctors in 'revolt' over plan

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CLINICIANS at the Women's and Children's Hospital have refused to endorse the early design plans for the new building, with some blasting the State Government for not revealing even basic details.

The scathing feedback has prompted Health and Well-being Minister Stephen Wade, pictured, to extend the consultation period for the new WCH.

Doctors in nine major areas have raised serious concerns in the government's Functional Design Brief, obtained by the Opposition yesterday. The 560-page draft document, prepared in February, details early plans for 60 areas in the hospital.

Each segment includes feedback from staff and doctor groups. Once complete, the brief will then be provided to architects.



provided the final number of rooms and their dimensions in certain areas of the hospital.

"This data is critical to everything we do, and we understand this is available and should be presented to us before seeking an agreement to the final document," the doctors wrote in the report.

In many cases the document does not reveal how many rooms are to be built in each area and instead uses "XX" in place of numbers.

"The caveat approach with 'XX' etc is totally unacceptable for many obvious reasons," the clinician feedback

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as we listen to the insight of clinicians," he said.

Opposition health spokesman Chris Picton said doctors were in "open revolt" about the proposed design brief.

"(Premier) Steven Marshall must ensure these doctors are listened to and we don't end up with a hospital with fewer beds and insufficient services as warned by doctors," he said.

Mr Wade said Labor had "no credibility when it comes to planning and building a hospital".

"Labor announced a new Women's and Children's Hospital in 2013, promising it would open in 2023 and then did nothing for four years," he said.

"The State Government has consulted with more than 690 clinicians and other staff, and 35 consumers during more than 1000 hours of consultation on the new WCH."