

## Hospital in Jurong a big draw after \$3m revamp

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WORKERS from the Jurong area have been flocking to a newly refurbished private hospital in Jurong for emergency treatment, rehabilitative care and health screenings.

They make up 30 to 40 per cent of the patients at West Point Hospital, which held an open house on Sunday to introduce its services.

The facility along Corporation Drive used to be Jurong Hospital.

After \$3 million was put into renovations by China Healthcare, it is now a 58-bed hospital offering acute and convalescent care. It has a 24-hour A&E department, in-patient and outpatient clinics, a traditional Chinese medicine corner and a physiotherapy centre.

West Point has also set up a new diagnostics lab with the National Healthcare Group (NHG) to offer blood tests, X-rays and CT scans.

China Healthcare runs five nursing homes with in-house physiotherapy and medical services called Medicare centres under the EconHealthcare name and two nursing homes here; it also runs a Medicare centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Speaking at the open house on Sunday, Education Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, who is an MP for Jurong

GRC, said: "Although it is a private hospital, it is committed to keeping the costs down and offering affordable prices.

"It does this by close collaborations with NHG and other clinics in Singapore."

West Point confirmed that its prices are 20 per cent lower than most private hospitals, with a single room costing an average of \$320 a day.

Residents in the Jurong area cheered the more affordable rates.

Madam Juliet Tan, 52, a materials planner who lives just behind the hospital, noted that there were only one or two general practitioners in the area, and they closed at 9pm.

"At least, we now have an alternative within the residents' reach," she added.

China Healthcare chief Ong Chu Poh said the hospital has roped in specialists in areas such as orthopaedics, neurology and oncology to run clinics in the evenings and during the lunch hour to accommodate residents' work schedules.

He added that plans have already been made for an 18-storey, 250-bed hospital on the site, pending approval from the Urban Renewal Authority.

The \$100 million facility, which will include a fully fledged cancer centre, is expected to be ready in about three years.