When was PA hospital opened

The Princess Alexandra Hospital (PA Hospital) in Woolloongabba officially opened its first wing as the **South Brisbane Hospital** on **26 August 1956**, and was renamed and rededicated as the **Princess Alexandra Hospital** in **1959**.

Key Historical Milestones

- **1901:** The site operated earlier as the Diamantina Hospital for Chronic Diseases (following the 1883 Diamantina Orphanage).
- **1943–1956:** Designated as the South Brisbane Auxiliary Hospital before opening as the South Brisbane Hospital on **26 August 1956**.
- **1959:** Renamed the **Princess Alexandra Hospital** to mark Queensland's Centennial.
- **1965:** Visited and officially opened by HRH Princess Alexandra on **30 April 1965**.

If you'd like, I can share more about:

- **The historical evolution** of the site from the Diamantina Orphanage
- **Major medical milestones** (such as when the spinal and transplant units opened)
- **Recent hospital expansions** and current services

Apparently in 1959 it took the inhabitants on Peel Island

Yes, that is completely correct. On **5 August 1959**, the remaining patients from the **Peel Island Lazaret** (a mandatory isolation facility for people diagnosed with leprosy, or Hansen's disease) were transferred directly to the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

This historic move marked the permanent closure of the Peel Island institution after 52 years of operation.

Why the Move Happened

- **Medical Breakthroughs:** Beginning in 1947, patients were successfully treated with new sulfone drugs (like Promin), which actually cured the disease rather than just managing it.
- **Changing Global Standards:** By the late 1950s, international medical consensus recognized that strict, forced isolation on remote islands was no longer necessary or humane.
- **Integration into General Medicine:** The final group of patients (about a dozen individuals) were relocated to **Ward S12** at the newly built South Brisbane (PA) Hospital, allowing them to receive modern medical care without being shut away from society.

It remains a deeply poignant chapter in Queensland's medical history, representing the exact moment public health policy shifted away from forced banishment toward integrated hospital care.

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