



EMMA SKULANDER (HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE), MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH ROSE JACKSON, BEN HARDY (BARPA), JANE BOSTOCK (BROKEN HILL HOSPITAL), DENISE JACK (FWLHD) AND AUNTY BARBARA CLARK (WILYAKALI ELDER)

Ready, Set, Build! Sod turns marks start of construction

Construction is now underway on the Broken Hill Health Service's new Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit (MHIPU) and upgrade of the Emergency Department (ED) following the turning of the first sod on 27 June.

NSW Minister for Mental Health, the Hon Rose Jackson MLC was joined by Health Infrastructure's Acting Chief Executive Emma Skulander and around 45 Far West Local Health District (FWLHD) and hospital representatives, the redevelopment project team and builders Barpa, and community members to celebrate the milestone event.

A welcome to Country performed by Wilyakali woman Taunoa Bugmy, and Smoking Ceremony led by Aunty Barbara Clark reflected the significance of Country and local culture in the project design at the event.

"Health Infrastructure is so proud to be delivering this important redevelopment, which has been shaped by valuable feedback from staff, stakeholders, and the local community," said Ms Skulander.

Barpa was appointed as the building contractor following a competitive tender process.

Work on the Acute MHIPU and ED will take place simultaneously and staff, patients and visitors will continue to be updated as work progresses.



THE SMOKING CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED TO CULTURALLY CLEANSE THE SITE BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH ROSE JACKSON SPEAKING AT THE SOD TURN

About the Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment



In April 2022, the NSW Government announced the Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment.

The redevelopment includes the construction of a new purpose-built Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit, which is being delivered under the NSW Government's \$700 million Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program. It will provide a contemporary, culturally safe, and therapeutic space with co-designed facilities for people with mental health needs, their families, carers and staff.

It also includes a \$12 million upgrade and expansion of the hospital's Emergency Department, which will be reconfigured to better meet the critical health needs of the region and includes a new dedicated 24/7 entry, a larger light-filled waiting area, and tailored treatment spaces for children and those requiring mental health services.

Current impacts during construction

We recognise that building new infrastructure can be disruptive to consumers, visitors, staff, nearby residents, businesses and road users.

All construction activities are carried out with the health and safety of the local community as our top priority. For your safety, please follow instructions at all times.

The following impacts will be in place until the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit is complete in mid-2025 (see map).

Changed traffic conditions impacting vehicle and pedestrian movements:

- The Thomas Street entry road is closed to vehicles and pedestrians. Vehicle entry to the hospital campus is only available via Chloride Street. Pedestrian access is available via the main hospital entry on Thomas Street and via the rear entry.
- A section of the internal Hospital Road adjacent to the Acute MHIPU work zone is also closed to vehicles and pedestrians. Access to three disabled car parks and the smokers' hut will remain.
- Vehicle access from Thomas Street to Safe Haven Café, the adjacent Far West Mental Health Recovery Centre and hospital residences will be maintained via the existing laneway off Thomas Street.
- Detours and signage is in place.
- A safe fire egress route will be maintained at all times.

Access:

- Closure of pedestrian access to the Oncology Unit, Renal Unit and Pathology – please access via front or rear main entries to hospital. There are two after-hours access points off Thomas Street for clinicians.
- Temporary removal of the needle exchange facility adjacent to the Sub-Acute Rehabilitation Unit (SARU) – please use the facility provided outside of the

Emergency Department at the rear of the hospital.

- The hospital bus stop is temporarily located at the front of hospital in Thomas Street until construction of the Acute MHIPU is complete.
- Services and rubbish removal access at the SARU building will be maintained from Thomas Street.

Parking:

- Closure of both rows in the western carpark.
- Hospital staff are encouraged to use street parking surrounding the hospital only to ensure car spaces closest to the hospital are available for the use of patients and consumers, especially the elderly and infirm.
- The total number of parking spaces will not be affected by the redevelopment and offset parking will be available after the completion of the Acute MHIPU in mid-2025.





Take 5 with Cameron Spenceley

Clinical Director, Emergency Medicine, Broken Hill Hospital

What is your background?

I have been the Clinical Director of Emergency Medicine at Broken Hill Hospital for close to 2.5 years. I have worked for several years in the Northern Territory, and I also work in Sydney. During medical school, I did a 6-month placement in Broken Hill and that is why I came back here again.

How involved have you been in the planning and design of the redevelopment?

Heavily!!! Health Infrastructure, the project managers and the architects could not have been more helpful and have worked very hard to listen patiently to all our clinical needs and provide an excellent solution. I am very happy with the design outcome and am sure the builders will do a fantastic job bringing it to life.

What do you think will be the benefits of the ED upgrade?

Better treatment spaces, a more welcoming environment for staff and patients, a nicer waiting area, a much less cramped and crowded ED, more privacy during treatment and for sensitive conversations, and capacity to deal with external disasters e.g. mass casualty events where we may need to use space adjacent to the ED.

What are you most looking forward to in the redeveloped ED?

Larger treatment areas for resuscitation patients and clear corridors.

How are the ED staff feeling about the new unit?

Enthusiastic and looking forward to the new space.

What do you think will be the main challenges during construction?

Ensuring access for patients and a bit of extra noise.

Expressions of Interest OPEN:
Call for Artists to be part of
Broken Hill Health Service
Redevelopment



Artists Wanted for Health Service Art Project

Are you a talented artist interested in creating art for Broken Hill Health Service's new Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit and upgraded Emergency Department?

Expressions of Interest open for lead artists

Local artists have an incredible opportunity to contribute their talent to the new Acute MHIU and the upgraded ED as part of the redevelopment's Arts Program.

On behalf of Health Infrastructure and Far West Local Health District, consultants West Darling Arts (WDA) and the Broken Hill City Art Gallery (BHCAG) are now seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for two Lead Artists to support the integration of arts into the redevelopment.

The Lead Artists will work closely with the WDA and BHCAG teams, and a project Cultural Advisor, to make new work and facilitate community workshops to inform key art components in the redevelopment.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open at the West Darling Arts or Broken Hill City Art Gallery websites and close on Sunday, 18 August.

Need help with the EOI?

West Darling Arts and Broken Hill City Art Gallery are available to help support artists get their EOI together, so please get in touch with them for more info or drop into the EOI Info session on **Tuesday August 6, 12pm – 6pm** at the West Darling Arts office next to Trades Hall.

Broken Hill Key Worker Accommodation update

Work on the delivery of Broken Hill Hospital's key worker accommodation units is well underway following the release of the prototype and Schematic Design in May this year.

The accommodation is being delivered under the NSW Government's \$45.3m Key Worker Accommodation (KWA) Program.

Off-site manufacturing of the 20 units is progressing well by Hutchinson Builders, with delivery and the start of installation above the hospital campus on Morgan Street expected in late 2024.

The units will support health care workers looking to establish themselves in the Broken Hill community by providing accommodation close to work, which is a key factor in attracting and retaining health workers at rural and regional hospitals.



Scan the QR code to watch a video about the KWA prototype unit.



Scan the QR code for more information about the KWA Program.



OFF-SITE MANUFACTURING OF THE KWA UNITS UNDERWAY (JULY 2024)



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION: KEY WORKER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAM

Next steps

Design finalisation is underway, and construction will continue to progress on the new Acute MHIPU on the western side of the campus, including service relocations and civil works.

Work will start on stage one of the Emergency Department upgrade towards the end of July. The ED will remain operational throughout, with plans in place to minimise interruptions to service delivery.

Staff, patients and visitors will continue to be kept informed of any disruptions or impacts during construction via Works Notifications, social media, staff emails and information on the Redevelopment Noticeboard at the front entrance to the hospital.

Thank you for your patience while we complete this important redevelopment for the Broken Hill community.

Health Infrastructure, Far west Local health District and Broken Hill Health Service acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose lands the redevelopment project stands and pays respect to the peoples of the Wilyakali and Barkindji Nation, the Traditional Owners of this land.

For more information and FAQs

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