

Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program



This factsheet provides introductory information for consumer representatives part of the Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program (SWMHIP, or, the Program) about what participating in a project may look like.

What is the Program?

The Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program is made up of multiple Projects. The Projects include building and updating mental health facilities across NSW. This is one of the many ways mental health care is improving in NSW, there are also new ways of working and changes to workforce.

What is the goal of the Program?

To make mental health facilities better to support the enhancement of mental health services throughout NSW.

What is the Budget?

The whole Program has been allocated \$700 million, your project will be a part of this.

You will be working with four teams:

1. Mental Health Branch, NSW Health
2. Local Health District (LHD)
3. Project team – Health Infrastructure (HI), Project Managers and LHD specific to one project
4. Program team – Health Infrastructure (HI) and Program Manager across all the projects

Local Health Districts are responsible for operating mental health services in their local area.

HI is responsible for designing and constructing the projects.

There will be lots of different experts in the room, you are one of them

You might not have the expertise they have, just as they don't have the expertise you have. Your expertise comes from your experience. Co-design recognises the importance of consumers' knowledge and experience, in partnership with other people who use and run mental health services.

It is not important for you to understand technical things about building hospitals or finances. It is very important to ask questions if people start saying things you don't understand.

What will be the Challenge?

How would we build or re-design a Mental Health facility?

How could we make it a 'healing' place? How could we make sure people are as well as possible when they go home?

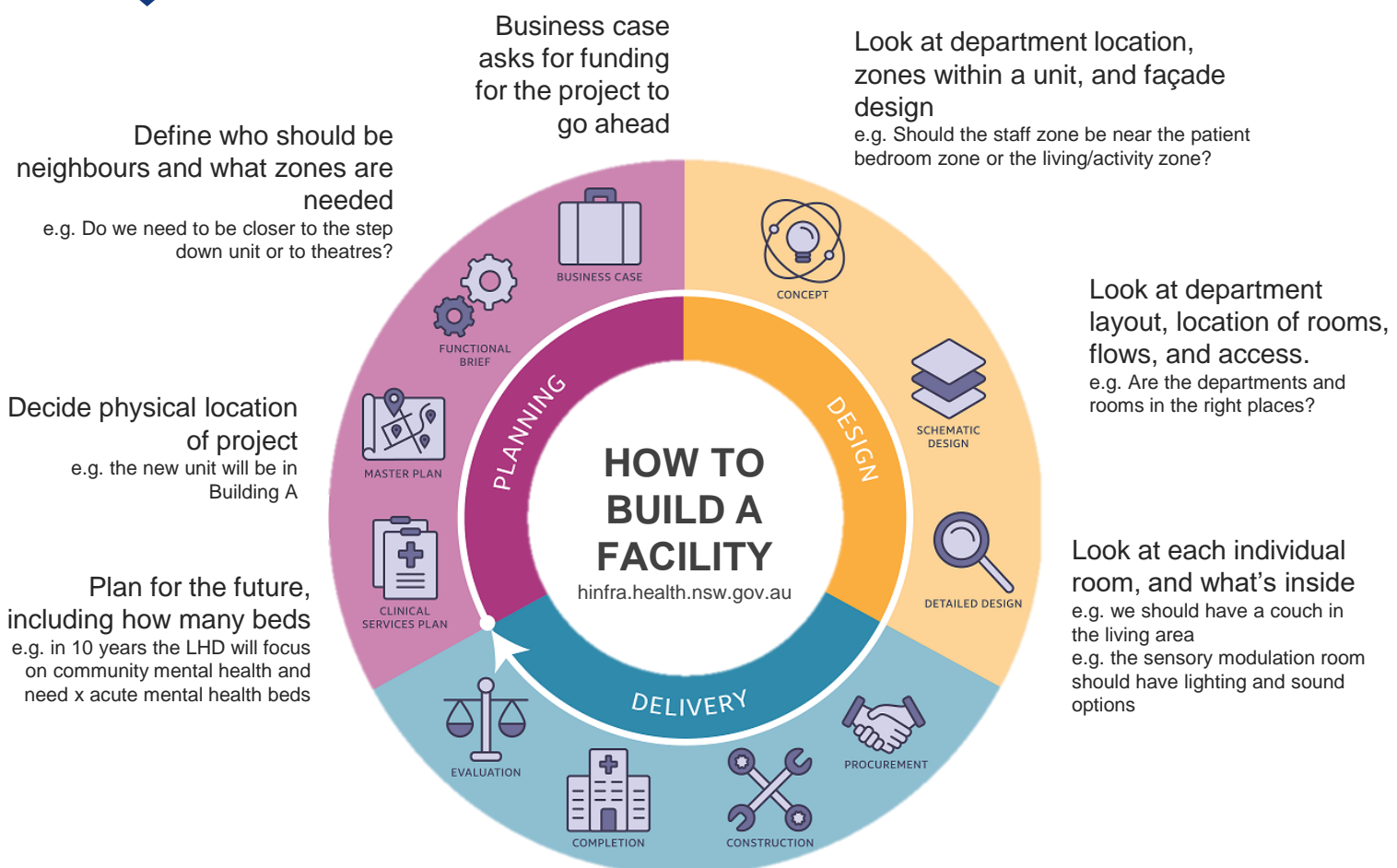
Remember, you might have ideas no one else will think of. It's a good thing you're here.

Tips from Luke, a Consumer Representative

- 1 Check in** regularly with your project team about how you can contribute and how they can support you.
- 2** Find someone in the project team you feel **comfortable** with, to reflect off if you have any questions. You can also **call them before the meeting** to better understand the topic and what's expected.
- 3** Feel free to **bring an item** (e.g. crystal) or a person (e.g. supervisor) which gives you **courage** to speak in meetings.
- 4** **Projects need to be realistic** about what they can and can't change in different stages. If you're not sure, ask what stage you're at and what the project can and can't change.

What projects can and can't change

Your project will go through different stages. Each stage focuses on something different and projects need to be realistic about what they can and can't change in different stages. It's important to know what stage your project is at so you can contribute to the best possible outcome. You can ask your project team member about the stages and what's expected.



More Information

What you might expect to do

You might be asked to participate in a range of activities such as:

1. Be the voice of consumer and community groups, not just individuals
2. Attend and contribute in meetings
3. Provide feedback to consumer groups / organisations or other members of the community
4. Read and provide comment on documents within a timeframe

How your project team can support you

Ask the hospital or project team who your main point of contact will be if you have any questions. Examples of how they might help are:

1. Explain the 'jargon'. They are more than happy to be asked to explain things for you
2. Encourage you to contribute in way which works for you. If you would like, this can mean directing a question to you during meetings to ensure your voice is heard
3. Provide you with extra information prior to a meeting such as who might be in the room and what their particular role is, or more detail as to the focus of the meeting
4. Give you tips on:
 - how to speak up in a meeting
 - how to write feedback
 - what information to give back to consumer and community groups.
5. Connect you with your local consumer or peer work group, or with Luke, a consumer representative working with all the projects on the SWMHIP.

How you can help your project



The benefits of participating

Including your voice in these projects will benefit the project results, the community, and yourself. You can contribute to design and system improvement, share expertise, and receive compensation for your input.

More about the Program

The Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program (SWMHIP) was announced in 2018. The \$700M program will support the delivery of mental health care reforms in NSW. The SWMHIP will deliver more and better co-designed facilities for people with mental health needs, their families, carers and staff.

It will make sure that the government's investment meets future demand for services and improves people's access to specialist services.

Working together

At Health Infrastructure the needs and concerns of all our stakeholders are important to us. Stakeholders are people who have involvement with, or interest in, the Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program.

We are committed to genuine, respectful consultation and engagement with the community throughout the lifespan of our program and its projects.

We are doing more to partner with people with a lived experience of mental illness, carers and staff to co-design facilities that meet the needs of the people who use them. Co-design aims for effective and real results. Our facilities strongly aim to be person-centred, safe and therapeutic environments where integrated holistic care is delivered

Contact us

If you want more information or would like to chat about being a consumer representative contact us using the email address below

Email: HI-SWMHIP@health.nsw.gov.au

We can also visit the SWMHIP website <https://www.hinfra.health.nsw.gov.au/our-projects/statewide-mental-health-infrastructure-program>