



Image: Broken Hill Health Service Master Plan

Project Overview

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

The project includes a **\$10 million upgrade to the hospital's Emergency Department (ED)**, which will be reconfigured to better meet the critical health needs of the region and includes tailored treatment spaces for children and those requiring mental health services.

The redevelopment also includes an enhanced **Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit (MHIPU)**, which is being delivered as part of the NSW Government's Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program (SWMHIP). Once complete, the upgraded mental health inpatient unit will provide a modern and contemporary therapeutic space with co-designed facilities for people with mental health needs, their families, carers and staff.

The master planning for the project is now complete and it is now in the design phase.

Why are the upgrades needed?

The current ED and Acute MHIPU facilities are aging and no longer fit for purpose. The redevelopment will meet the changing health needs of Broken Hill and surrounding communities now and into the future. These needs are outlined in a Clinical Services Plan for the region.

What is the Clinical Services Plan and why is it important?

The first stage in the development of a new hospital is clinical services planning. The Broken Hill Hospital Redevelopment Clinical Services Plan takes the form of Services Statements for each of the two areas of the redevelopment – the Emergency Department and the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit. These will be used to reconfirm health priorities for facility upgrades, confirm the type of health care that will be provided, now and in the future, to best meet the needs of the community.

What is the Master Plan and why is it important?

Developing the Master Plan is a complex process and requires extensive clinical consultation to ensure it meets the needs of the community now and into the future. The Master Plan process for the Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment is now complete and following consultation with key stakeholders.

The Master Plan is a map showing how the site will accommodate the new Acute MHIPU, in conjunction with the existing facilities, and key clinical connections between services to respond to requirements identified in the respective ED and Acute MHIPU Service Statements.

The Master Plan also considers existing services such as transport and utilities, and the capacity for future expansion if needed as demand for services change. It is used to develop a Concept Design which is the next stage in the project. Community feedback on the Master Plan is incorporated into the Concept Design.

What is the Concept Design?

The Concept Design is the first step in the design phase following master planning. It is a 'high-level' design which allows for the hospital plan to be brought to life. It shows the relationships between the clinical functions, services and other facilities.

The Concept Design for the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit was released and shared with stakeholders in July 2023. The Concept Design for the Emergency Department will be released in August 2023.

What is the next step?

Once the Concept Design has been agreed and finalised, the next step is the Schematic Design. The Schematic Design considers the building and services to the next level of detail, providing clinicians, staff, and other stakeholders with a greater level of understanding of what the new facility will look like and how it will work.

The Schematic Design for the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit will be released and shared with stakeholders in August 2023. The Schematic Design for the Emergency Department is expected to be released in September 2023.

Will the current Emergency Department be moved or relocated?

A number of options were considered to determine the preferred location for the ED as part of the master planning process. Due to the integrated and centralised nature of the existing ED with the adjacent hospital services, the ED will not be relocated and therefore refurbished and expanded in its current location - see *Master Plan image on page 1*.

Key considerations which determined this decision included options for future expansion opportunities, proximity to the relocated Acute MHIPU (also part of this redevelopment), impact to hospital operations, and capital cost.

The ED will remain operational throughout the upgrade and every effort will be made to minimise disruption. Staff and the community will be kept informed in advance of any planned changes.

Will the current MHIPU be moved or relocated?

A number of options on the Broken Hill Health Service campus were considered based on the requirements of the upgrade as part of the master planning process.

The new Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit will be located as a newly built facility to the south-west of the current facility, adjacent to other existing mental health related services - see *master Plan image on page 1*.

Key considerations which determined this decision included options for future expansion opportunities, proximity to the expanded ED (also part of this redevelopment) and other adjacent Mental Health Services, impact to hospital operations, and capital cost.

What services and facilities are included in the redevelopment?

The new MHIPU will provide a modern and contemporary therapeutic space with co-designed facilities for people with mental health needs, their families, carers and staff. It will provide eight beds allowing flexibility to care for mental health, vulnerable and higher acuity consumers – this in an increase of one bed from the current MHIPU.

The current Emergency Department will be reconfigured to better meet the critical health needs of the region. It will include tailored treatment spaces for children and those requiring mental health services.

When will work start on the project?

Construction will commence in 2024. We will continue to keep staff and community updated throughout all stages of the project.

Is additional hospital parking be considered as part of the project?

Current parking areas to improve access for patients, staff and visitors are being investigated as planning for the redevelopment progresses. This includes consultation with local Council and traffic engineers to ensure there will be no loss of car parking spaces.

Is future expansion being considered to support a potential growth in population?

Future expansion zones were a key consideration in determining the preferred locations for the ED and MHIPU as identified in the master planning process.

Will additional staff accommodation be built as part of the project?

Health Infrastructure is currently in the early planning stages to construct key worker accommodation at Broken Hill under a separate program to the Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment project. This planning will commence shortly with site investigations and Project User Groups.

How is artwork developed and incorporated into the design and build?

An Arts Working Group (AWG) has been established for the project which began meeting in June 2023. The AWG consists of members of the project team and local arts and community representatives, including Aboriginal people. The AWG will provide advice for the successful integration of arts for wellbeing into the project. Local artists will be invited to tender for arts opportunities identified during the arts planning process.

How much consultation will take place during the planning and design phase?

Hospital staff, consumers, carers and the community were consulted as part of the master planning process and will continue to be consulted during the design phase.

Project User Groups (PUGs) are underway to enable the project team to consult on various aspects of building design to ensure it best supports clinical needs, including maximising staff efficiencies. Participation from PUGs is important in developing the design to ensure clinicians and other staff including nurses and hospital managers, as well as consumers and community representatives, provide input into the infrastructure.

Will the local Aboriginal community be engaged in planning and design?

Designing with Country will be an important element in the project. We are consulting with the local Aboriginal community and organisations throughout the Far West Local Health District to ensure the upgraded ED and Acute MHIPU are welcoming, safe and culturally appropriate places that promote healing and improved wellbeing.

What opportunities exist for Aboriginal employment and local employment on the project?

Health Infrastructure encourages the use of local subcontractors and staff as appropriate and where available. There will be opportunities for local people to work on the project during construction and these opportunities will be advertised by the building contractor after they have been appointed.

In line with the NSW Government's Aboriginal Procurement Policy (APP), the building contractor will be required to nominate and achieve a minimum level of Aboriginal employment opportunity throughout project delivery, which will be assessed as part of the tender process.

Will construction impact the provision of health services?

All current services will continue at Broken Hill Hospital during the construction stage, and while these works will involve complex staging in a live hospital environment, every effort will be made to minimise disruption and staff and the community will be kept informed in advance of any planned changes.

How will the community be kept informed of progress?

Progress updates will be shared via the project website, newsletters, and social media. Information sessions and workshops will also be held throughout the planning and design process.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE PROJECT TEAM:
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