

### About the Redevelopment

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 facilities 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.

### Launch of MHIPU Concept Design

The first design images for the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit have now been released.

The concept design showcases the new building which is a co-designed facility to be built on the Broken Hill Health Service campus in Thomas Street.

It will be built to the south-west of the current facility and adjacent to other existing community mental health related services following positive feedback during the master planning process.

The proposed location takes into account key considerations including options for future expansion, proximity to the Emergency Department, and impact to hospital operations.

The concept designs show what the exterior of the building will potentially look like, including key features such as the front entry and main courtyard (*see pics below and next page*). Safe and secure outside spaces are an important consideration in the design, the







availability of natural light and fresh air, as well as Indigenous influenced landscaping, contributing to a therapeutic and culturally safe environment for those with mental health needs.

Internally, the MHIPU will provide eight beds, which will be used flexibly to care for a range of mental health consumers including the most vulnerable and those with high needs.

Extensive consultation with staff, carers and the community, including Indigenous representatives, has enabled the project team to take on feedback on various aspects of the building design and to ensure it best supports clinical and staffing needs.

The concept design for the Emergency Department, which is also part of the redevelopment, is expected to be released and consulted in September 2023.

### Engagement with stakeholders informing design

The Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment project team has a strong commitment to stakeholder engagement in delivering community-focused health infrastructure, improving healthcare delivery and enhancing the overall patient experience.

Consultation and engagement with local stakeholders, including hospital staff, consumers and carer representatives, Broken Hill Health Council, Broken Hill Shire Council, and the general community, including Aboriginal people has been ongoing since the early planning stage and will continue as the project design progresses.

Feedback from stakeholders is being used to inform the design to ensure it best meets the needs of staff



and the community, with co-design being crucial, particularly for the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit.

Project User Groups have been established for both the MHIPU and ED and are made up of members of the project team, clinical and non-clinical staff, consumers, and carers, who bring a diverse range of insights, views and opinions, including that of lived experience, to the planning and design processes.

The project team also provides regular project updates at information sessions, presentations, workshops, and pop-up stands in local shopping centres and the hospital.

These activities provide good opportunities for people to provide feedback and share ideas about the project which assists to inform the design.

### Arts Working Group exploring the integration of arts into the project

Exposure to the arts has many benefits for the health and wellbeing of patients and consumers.

Arts in health is particularly important in mental health settings and environments like the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit which forms part of the Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment.

A local Arts Working Group was recently established to drive the integration of arts into the project design, meeting for the first time in June to start this process.

With the support of Health Infrastructure's innovative Arts in Health program, the group is exploring how arts can help deliver welcoming, dynamic, and culturally



*Arts Working Group, June 2023*



*Project Director Gert Halbgebauer talking to staff at hospital pop-up, June 2023*

appropriate spaces for patients, consumers, carers, staff and the community.

The Arts Working Group will continue to meet regularly over the next several months to ensure art is considered in the project design so that the indoor and outdoor spaces complement health service delivery and reflect local communities.

The group will work with the project team to identify potential arts opportunities in both the Emergency Department and the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit, develop briefs for local artists to tender, and be part of the art selection process.

Broken Hill and its surrounds have a creative and diverse arts community and we are looking forward to getting it involved in the project.

### The Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program (SWMHIP)

Upgrades to the Broken Hill Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit are being delivered as part of the NSW Government's \$700 million Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program (SWMHIP), the state's biggest mental health infrastructure reform program delivering more and better co-designed facilities for people with mental health needs, their families, carers and staff.

The SWMHIP will transform existing infrastructure, support new models of contemporary care and specialist mental health units, and provide facilities for patients to transition or receive care in the community. The Program is one part of a system wide reform of mental health care across the state, which puts people at the centre of care.

For more information on the SWMHIP, please visit **Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program (SWMHIP) - Health Infrastructure NSW**

To help meet the challenge of providing affordable, accessible accommodation for new and visiting health workers, the Key Worker Accommodation (KWA) program is being delivered by Health Infrastructure across rural and regional NSW in partnership with individual Local Health Districts to provide contemporary, flexible and sustainable accommodation for health workers at rural and regional hospitals.

Accommodation strategies for each area may include new accommodation units, refurbishments and local housing options that best suit the local area and needs.

Units are designed in consultation with local staff and are flexible in design providing opportunities to have the accommodation meet the needs of medical staff. They are most commonly placed on site and support a community within a community allowing the staff to connect with each other and the broader community.

Early planning for key worker accommodation in Broken Hill has commenced with initial site investigations. Project User Groups are expected to start shortly.

### Next steps

The tender for main works for both the ED and Acute MHIPU is expected to be released at the end of 2023, following the completion of the design phase of the project.

Construction is expected to commence in early 2024.

### Key worker accommodation

Health Infrastructure is currently in the early planning stages to construct key worker accommodation at the Broken Hill Hospital campus under a separate program to the Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE PROJECT TEAM:

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