

Key Worker Accommodation Program: Murrumbidgee PROJECT UPDATE



Looking back at the delivery of the units to the four sites in 2024

Murrumbidgee hospital sites' Key Worker Accommodation units progress to completion

The four sites selected for Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) for the installation of residential accommodation for health care workers under the NSW Government's \$45.3 million Key Worker Accommodation (KWA) Program have all had their units delivered, with installation of three of the sites now complete.

West Wyalong, Finley and Narrandera Health Services' units are completely installed, with the first cohort of healthcare workers moved in and enjoying their new temporary homes. Leeton's units, delivered at the end of 2024, are now being installed and are expected to be completed shortly.

All of the units were manufactured off-site and delivered to each of the hospital sites on the back of trucks, with connection of services, landscaping, fencing, and furnishing of the units following.

West Wyalong

West Wyalong Health Service was the first of the MLHD sites to be completed, with three units, including one which is accessible, installed on the hospital grounds in September 2024.

West Wyalong Health Service Facility Manager Kylie Holland said agency nurses are currently staying in the units and are enjoying the modern and well-equipped accommodation.

“It’s great to be able to offer this accommodation to temporary staff to live in on a short-term basis to ensure we have the staff needed in our facility,” she said.

“Being just a few steps away from the health service makes it really easy and provides a sense of safety and security for our staff as well.”



Finley



Six units have been installed at Finley Health Service and are now occupied by healthcare workers.

One of the units is wheelchair accessible and the colour of the external walls was chosen to suit the green, leafy environment of Finley.

With the current [\\$25 million redevelopment of Finley Health Service](#), it is important that staff can continue to be recruited and retained so the best quality care can be provided to patients.

The extra accommodation on-site is assisting, and will continue to assist with this.

To see a video of the completed Finley KWA units, please visit youtu.be/BdMxBD77cLs.

Narrandera

Narrandera Health Service was the third of Murrumbidgee's four sites to have key worker accommodation delivered and installed.

Three units were installed on Adams Street on the north side of Health Service in October last year.

Final touches have now been made to the units and the first staff have moved in.

Facility Manager Michael Elder said it's been great to welcome the first healthcare workers into the units.

"The units are light and bright, and being self-contained and fully furnished, workers can just move straight in, which is a bonus," he said.

"It's great to see the units now completed and being lived in."



Leeton

Installation work is almost complete on the three key worker accommodation units which were delivered in November last year at Leeton District Hospital.

The units, one of which is wheelchair accessible, are being installed on the corner of Wade Avenue on the hospital site.



Facility Manager Amy Thorn said it's been exciting to see the units delivered and come to life on site.

"The units are fit-for-purpose and will provide a comfortable and safe place for our temporary or newly relocated staff to stay while working at Leeton and getting themselves established," she said.

"This form of modern construction works really well for healthcare accommodation and the final product is quite impressive.

"We are looking forward to seeing the Leeton units completed shortly so we can help healthcare workers wanting to make the move to Leeton a little easier."

Key Worker Accommodation Features

Each unit is self-contained, fully furnished and features:

- a light-filled living and dining area,
- modern kitchen with quality appliances,
- bedroom with built-in robe and ensuite,
- an internal laundry with a stacked washer and dryer,
- a screened veranda,
- secure access, and
- landscaping and tree planting.



Example of the living and dining area in the units

Thank you

The KWA Program has been delivered in partnership between the MLHD and Health Infrastructure. MLHD is responsible to determine operational management of the accommodation, including the eligibility of applicants.

Jill Ludford, Chief Executive of MLHD said the rollout of the KWA Program has been a highlight over the region over the last twelve months.

“We are thrilled to have seen the delivery of the fifteen key worker accommodation units across four more of our sites as we know it will make a real difference in recruiting and retaining health staff in our region,” she said.

“Congratulations to the project team and thank you to staff, patients and the communities of West Wyalong, Finley, Narrandera and Leeton for their patience and support while the units were delivered.”

The NSW Government has committed an additional \$200.1 million to increase key health worker accommodation across rural and regional areas of the State as part of the 2024-25 NSW Budget.

The Key Worker Accommodation Program

The NSW Government is investing \$45.3 million to deliver modern, sustainable accommodation for health workers in three rural health districts: Murrumbidgee, Southern NSW, and Far West.

Program Benefits:

- Attract more health workers to rural and regional hospitals.
- New, fit for purpose, self-contained and spacious accommodation surrounded by landscaping.
- Fully furnished, providing a safe and comfortable environment.
- Located on hospital grounds.
- Establish a community within a community allowing spaces for staff to connect with each other.

For more info about the Key Worker Accommodation Program, please visit hinfra.health.nsw.gov.au.

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