

Key Worker Accommodation Program: Cooma PROJECT UPDATE



The team celebrating the arrival of the units, December 2024

Almost ready: Cooma Health Service's new healthcare worker accommodation installation underway

Twelve new accommodation units for healthcare workers have now arrived at Cooma Health Service to help attract and retain much needed healthcare staff by removing a barrier to finding accommodation.

Southern NSW LHD Chief Executive Margaret Bennett, Board member Narelle Davis, and Facility Manager Jo Cawthorne joined Member for Monaro Steve Whan MP and project team representatives for a tour of the units on 16 December.

The key worker accommodation is located within the hospital grounds on Bombala Street, providing a safe and comfortable place for healthcare workers to stay close to work.



Member for Monaro Steve Whan MP inside one of the units

The units were built off-site and delivered on the back of trucks by Hutchinson Builders under the NSW Government's \$45.3 million Key Health Worker Accommodation (KWA) Program.

The accommodation complex is two storeys in height with six units on each floor, and features a communal room and deck, providing a recreational space for healthcare workers.

Each unit will be self-contained, fully furnished, and features a light-filled living and dining area, modern kitchen, bedroom with ensuite, an internal laundry, and screened veranda. Secure access to each unit will be provided and there will also be lighting and landscaping around the units.

Healthcare workers are expected to move into the new accommodation in the coming months, once installation, connection of stairs and services, fencing, landscaping, and furnishing of the new units is completed.

Southern NSW Local Health District will determine operational management of the accommodation, including the eligibility of applicants.



Member for Monaro Steve Whan MP checking out the units with SNSWLHD CE Margaret Bennett and Cooma Facility Manager Jo Cawthorne, December 2024



SNSWLHD CE Margaret Bennett, Steve Whan MP and SNSWLHD Board member Narelle Davis, December 2024



Installation continues – communal unit and deck in the foreground

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: Southern NSW, Far West and Murrumbidgee.

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.
- Communal spaces.
- Establish a community within a community allowing spaces for staff to connect with each other.



Schematic design of completed KWA units in Cooma

More information at [Key Worker Accommodation - Health Infrastructure NSW](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/KeyWorkerAccommodation/Pages/default.aspx)

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