

# DUBBO HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT STAGES 3 AND 4

PROJECT INSIGHTS | NEW MRI | MAY 2020

In March 2020, Dubbo Hospital opened its first MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) machine for patients. Located in the new Medical Imaging Department, the machine uses a large magnet and radio waves to look at organs and structures inside the body. Health care professionals use MRI scans to diagnose a variety of conditions - everything from torn ligaments, tumors and stroke.

Two months after receiving the first patient, we asked Dubbo's Senior MRI radiographer, Luke Meredith and Chief Radiographer, Diane Townsend how the new service is going.

*How has the team adapted to the new MRI service?*

The new machine has been embraced by the hospital and local doctors very quickly, which is excellent.

The whole radiology team has worked well to adapt department work-flows and thankfully we've had very few teething issues.

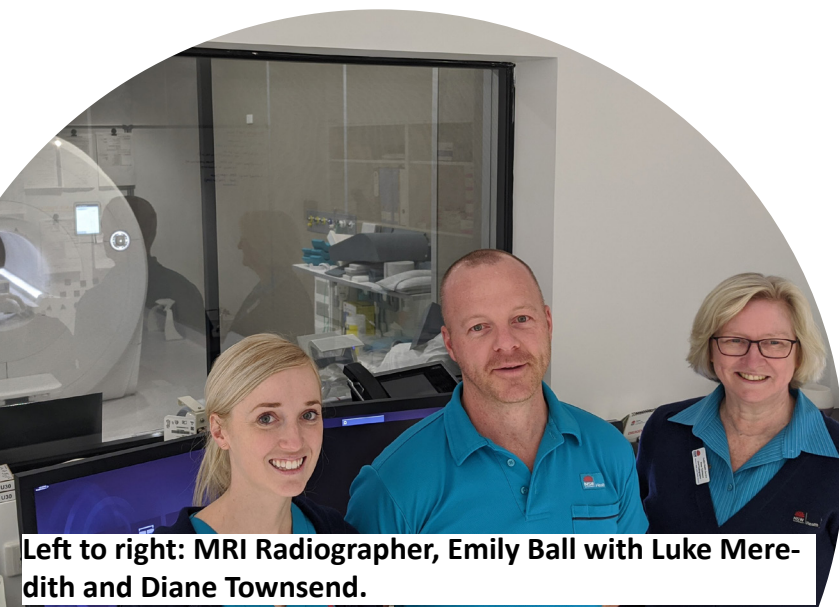
In the past, patients having a CT at the hospital would have had to go off-site for their accompanying MRI scan. Now, they can have both scans done at the hospital - one after the other. This is a great outcome for patients and the MRI, CT and nursing teams have worked well coordinating each patient's care.

*What are some of the other benefits to having this service at Dubbo Hospital?*

Being able to provide urgent scans for hospital patients, in particular cases coming through the Emergency Department is such a great benefit. Getting a fast diagnosis can be crucial in clinical management and the patient's health outcome.

For critically ill patients in hospital, being able to come down to our department for a scan, rather than being taken off-site via transport, is obviously much better for the patient. If they are feeling unwell, we can accommodate them with the booking times and the doctors on the wards can get almost instant feedback about the images and results from our onsite radiologists.

Paediatric imaging is also top priority for the department. The ability to treat children here at the hospital instead of sending them to Orange or Sydney will have a hugely positive impact on families.



Left to right: MRI Radiographer, Emily Ball with Luke Meredith and Diane Townsend.

### ***How does the new MRI machine at Dubbo Hospital compare to others across the state?***

Feedback from referring doctors and reporting radiologists has been overwhelmingly positive. Image quality on this MRI is as good as I have seen anywhere. Scans are faster, less noisy and the extra space inside the magnet significantly improves the patient's experience.

We are also the only MRI in the area performing Breast MRI. Most commonly for patients who have had difficulty getting a diagnosis through other conventional imaging.

### ***How have patients responded to the service?***

Almost every patient that comes through the new department comments on how great it is for the hospital and for Dubbo to have the new scanner here.

After their scan, patients have mentioned how comfortable they were - some even falling asleep while they're being scanned!

### ***How will the MRI machine support the new cancer centre when it opens?***

The oncology department is already using the new service and we will certainly provide regular support to the new Western Cancer Centre when it opens in 2021.



Dubbo Hospital services such a large catchment area and it will be wonderful for the region to have a world-class cancer centre that is integrated with the rest of the hospital.

We look forward to working with the new cancer centre team and coordinating the best care for patients - especially those traveling large distances for treatment.

**-Ends-**

**The new Medical Imaging Department is on the ground floor of the new three-storey building. The remaining sections of the building are scheduled to open in 2021.**