

What does the new Medical Imaging unit mean for staff and patients?

The new three-storey hospital building will deliver an expanded medical imaging unit as part of the NSW Government's \$150 million Dubbo Hospital Redevelopment Stages 3 and 4. It was designed in consultation with users and to support the growing needs of the Dubbo and Western NSW communities.

We spoke with Diane Townsend and James Corfield from the Medical Imaging Unit to find out more.



James and Diane are looking forward to moving in to their new purpose-built space designed to fit all their current and new medical imaging equipment.

What are some of the challenges of the current unit?

James: We have outgrown the space and there is a growing demand for our services. This is putting pressure on waiting times and on staff.

Diane: We've increased our staff numbers to meet the demand for services but now we're running out of space. Over the years we've introduced new procedures and adopted new technology but our current layout doesn't allow us to adapt very well.

Were you both involved in the planning of the new unit?

James: Yes. During the user group process we were able to successfully put forward our case to double the size of our unit to meet the overall expansion of the hospital.

The planning and design process required some compromises between us and the project team but overall it's been great to have some ownership in designing the new unit.

Diane: During the planning phase we were also able to secure space for a second CT Scanner which is a great outcome.

What are some of the benefits of the new unit for patients?

Diane: In addition to the larger floor area and space for a second CT Scanner, we also have room for an MRI unit, which would be a totally new service for Dubbo Hospital.

Our bigger unit and increased number of services will help improve wait times for in-patients and allow us to accept more out-patient referrals from specialists. This will improve the experience of patients living remotely who will potentially be able to see the specialist and have their imaging done in the one place

James: Our new unit will also incorporate an X-ray room near the fracture clinic with a shared waiting area. This will simplify the experience for patients and make both services more efficient.

What are some of the benefits of the new unit for staff?

Diane: A bigger unit with a larger variety of imaging services, will provide more training opportunities for staff. It will allow staff to expand their skill set and try new things which will help us attract and retain staff.

James: Our office space and clinical space is currently mixed in together so it will be nice to have purpose built offices and clinical spaces. This will hopefully make us more efficient and improve patient flow.

Will the new unit require a change in your models of care?

Diane: Yes, exposure to new technology will certainly change the way we do things.

The new layout and extra space means we will need to adjust our workflow practises. This will be a big change to adapt to but we are all excited about the opportunities and challenges that come with it.

James: The increased variety of services such as MRI and the new Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory

will certainly change the way we work.

And, while we'll still be well located to other services like ED in the new building, we need to work out how the expanded hospital footprint will affect how we work and communicate with other units.

Enabling works are currently underway for Stage 4 of the redevelopment, with work starting on the new hospital building in mid-2018.

Construction is expected to be complete in 2021.



Members of the Dubbo Hospital medical imaging team in one of the clinical rooms of the current unit.