

Health Minister unveils designs for new car parks

Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard and Member for Dubbo, Dugald Saunders visited Dubbo Hospital on 5th November to unveil more than 350 new parking spaces at Dubbo Hospital. The extra spaces will support the major expansion and upgrade of essential health services on campus.

The car park project includes a new multi-storey car park on the western side of the campus and a new on-grade car park on the south eastern side – providing convenient, free and secure parking for staff, patients and visitors.

The project also includes important infrastructure upgrades such as roadworks, hospital access, lighting and security.

Dedicated staff parking will be allocated in the new multi-storey car park to free up patient and visitor parking on the eastern side of the campus,



Left to right: Acting Executive Director of Rural and Regional, Health Infrastructure, Amanda Bock, Member for Dubbo Dugald Saunders, Acting Dubbo Hospital General Manager, Regan Woodman, Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard, Dubbo Health Council member, Geoff Wise, Wiradjuri Elder, Lewis Burns and Acting Chief Executive, Western NSW Local Health District, Mark Spittal.



which is close to the hospital main entry and Emergency Department.

The planning and design of the new car parks on campus is happening in parallel with the \$150 million Dubbo Hospital Redevelopment Stages 3 and 4 and the \$35 million Western Cancer Centre Dubbo.

Work will begin on the two new car parks next year once a construction tender has been awarded. Construction is expected to take approximately 12 months to complete.

Left: Artist's impression of new multi-storey car park.

Construction on track for completion in 2021 completion



Above: The staff station is coming together for the remaining section of the new Emergency Department on the ground floor.



Above: The new Western Cancer Centre is starting to take shape with the concrete structure almost complete.



Above and left: Work is progressing well on the new front of house at Dubbo Hospital. The double storey glass-fronted entry will let in an abundance of natural light and feature a colourful art installation which will be suspended from the ceiling. The project team recently took a group of staff on site to show them the new space to help them prepare for the move. Excitement is building!

The cancer centre goes virtual

Development is well underway on the creation of a new virtual cancer centre world which is being developed in partnership with the LHD, Health Infrastructure and Sydney University. The pilot project uses virtual reality (VR) to take patients and family members (who in live remote areas) on a immersive virtual tour of the cancer centre to show them what to expect and hopefully reduce their fear of leaving home for treatment.

The first iteration of the virtual world was tested with clinicians and Aboriginal Health Workers in early November, and feedback was positive.

The Western Cancer Centre Virtual World requires further development before testing on patients in remote areas gets underway in early 2021.

The plan is to launch the virtual reality program in three key sites (Walgett, Bourke and Cobar) when the Cancer Centre opens mid next year.

Following the launch, research will be conducted to measure its effectiveness with patients. The research will also help determine how virtual reality could be used in health care across our region including staff education, training and patient treatment.



Dubbo Oncology Nurse Unit Manager, Tim Williams and Dubbo Hospital Redevelopment Change Manager, Kerrie O'Neill visit the virtual cancer centre world using virtual reality headsets. Below: Patients will be able to "virtually" walk into the new radiation therapy bunker to get a better understanding of their treatment.



Redevelopment Stages 3 and 4 & Cancer Centre timeline

