

Project Insights In-patient Unit



L to R: Pharmacist Ashlie Mornament, Bed Manager, Kaye Simpson and Ward Clerk Michelle Sutton.

The first phase of construction for Stages 3 and 4 of our \$150 million Dubbo Hospital Redevelopment is about to begin!

Following an extensive planning and consultation phase, construction has started on a new In-patient Unit which will be located on top of the new clinical services building. It also includes the refurbishment of the old maternity unit for Medical Records and administration facilities.

We recently talked to Mary McCarthy who was the Nursing Unit Manager for S Block during the planning phase and is now the Furniture Fittings and Equipment Project Officer for the Redevelopment.

What are some of the challenges about the old In-patient Unit?

The unit has become very cluttered because there are very few storage areas, making it very challenging for patients and staff to get around safely. There are only four single rooms and limited ensuites, which makes it difficult to manage patients with an infection. The current unit is unable to cope with the demand and it's difficult to adopt contemporary practices such as medication management systems, electronic medical records.

What are some of the key benefits of the new In-patient Unit?

Some of the main benefits include increasing our single rooms from 4 to 14 and increasing the number of bathrooms from 9 to 24 - we'll expand to 34 in-patient beds! There will also only be single or double rooms in the unit and each room will have its own bathroom which will greatly improve the patient experience and will reduce the need for mixed-gender rooms.

How will the new In-patient Unit improve the patients' experience?

It will be safer and more restful for patients and easier for staff to provide care. For example, there will be fewer falls as a result of better visibility and observation of patients. There will also be more privacy for all patients, including designated bariatric patient rooms.

What are staff most looking forward to?

Staff are really looking forward to moving into a purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility which will help to re-invigorate everyone.

What are some of the unique features of the new In-patient Room?

Each single room will have a carer zone that features a day bed so patients can be comforted by their loved one or carer during their stay. This is particularly beneficial for patients who become a bit disorientated after surgery.



Registered Nurse, Veena Raveendran Nair.



Artist impression of a single room in the new In-patient Unit.

Meet the team

Name: Bonita Jameson

Position: Project Officer, Dubbo Hospital Redevelopment

Responsibilities: Project coordination, advocate for users within the project, assist with commissioning of the new building and organisation of decant and staging of the moving of departments and defect rectification monitoring.

Where are you from? Born and raised in Tamworth, married and moved to Walcha in the New England working in real estate and the agricultural industry for 10 years before moving to Dubbo and commencing with LHD in 2005 as the EA to the Director of Nursing at Dubbo Hospital.

Favourite colour: Red

Favourite food: Seafood

Are you are cat or a dog person? Originally a cat person but we now have a dog and he's convinced me both are great.

What do you like doing when you're not at work?

Patchwork, reading, cross-fit and helping my husband on our farm.

