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Dubbo Hospital's new Surgical Unit set to open

Dubbo Hospital's major transformation has reached another exciting milestone with the completion of a new 34-bed Surgical Unit, including 14 single rooms, in a large, bright and contemporary facility.

Member for Dubbo, Troy Grant visited Dubbo Hospital today to preview the new unit before the doors open to patients later this month.

The Surgical Unit, which has been constructed above the Maternity Unit on the second floor of the clinical services building (Talbragar Building), is part of the \$150 million Dubbo Hospital Redevelopment Stages 3 and 4, which is funded by the NSW Government.

During Mr Grant's visit, a smoking ceremony was conducted by local Wiradjuri elder, Lewis Burns, to cleanse the newly completed facilities.

The Surgical Unit at Dubbo Hospital was designed with input from staff and patients during a comprehensive planning and design phase to meet the specific needs of Dubbo and other Western NSW communities.

Most single rooms within the unit feature unique carer's zones to allow a family member or carer to stay overnight with patients if the hospital determines it is appropriate for their care.

Each carer's zone includes a couch with in-built storage that converts into a single bed at night, allowing a family member or carer to support the patient during their recovery.

General Manager, Debbie Bickerton said the layout and design of the unit will significantly improve the patient experience.

"Our spacious rooms, with more natural light and the dedicated carer's zones, will help to relax patients and give them the support they need to enhance the healing process."

"We've also significantly increased the number of single rooms which is great for patient privacy and will reduce the chance of infections after surgery," said Ms Bickerton.

Demolition works on George Hatch and the old Playmates Cottage will soon commence at Dubbo Hospital in preparation for the start of construction on Stage 4.

The demolition process and the installation of in-ground services will take several months to complete before main works can start on the new three-storey clinical building that will include:

- A new emergency department and short stay unit
- A new medical imaging unit
- A new critical care floor comprising of:

- Coronary care/stroke unit
- Intensive care unit
- Cardiac catheter laboratory
- A new ambulatory care unit; and
- A new front of house entry and drop off zone.

A new car park will also be constructed at the south eastern side of the campus.

Construction on Stage 4 will be carefully managed to minimise any disruption to patient services.

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