

TRANSFORMING THE NATION'S HEALTHCARE

HEALTH & AGEING AUSTRALIA 2013

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

The issues stakeholders see as priorities
for an incoming government.

STATE OF FLUX

Australia's multi-billion dollar medical
research industry is at a crossroads.

FIT FOR PURPOSE?

How changing demographics are
influencing healthcare design.

THE REAL DEAL

Providing a realistic education to
tomorrow's healthcare workers.

PLUS: TECHNOLOGY INDIGENOUS MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITY

LEADING THE WAY

From pioneering hospital projects housing cutting-edge technologies to landmark changes to policy and practice – healthcare services across the country continue to innovate and evolve. Over the following pages, *Transforming the Nation's Healthcare* highlights some of those projects in our states and territories focus. Compiled by *Darragh O'Keeffe and Alex Apte.*



Artist's impressions of the new \$630 million Bendigo Hospital.



VICTORIA

> WORKS TO BEGIN ON LARGEST REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Construction on the new \$630 million Bendigo Hospital has been given the green light after an event in May marking the contract signing between the Victorian Government and the Exemplar Health Consortium.

The project will result in Victoria's largest regional hospital, a world-class, state-of-the-art facility, providing high quality healthcare for the greater Bendigo community, Premier Denis Napthine said.

Minister for Health David Davis said the new hospital would have 372 beds and 10 operating theatres, an integrated cancer centre, mental health unit and a helipad.

"The hospital will provide 75 mental health beds, including a 35-bed adult psychiatric unit, a 20-bed aged psychiatric unit, and a 20-bed secure extended care unit. The new hospital will also feature a five-bed mother and baby unit," Davis said.

> BALLARAT EXPANSION READY TO START

Construction on the Ballarat Hospital expansion and new helipad is due to commence early next year, the State Government has said.

The project will deliver 60 extra beds for Ballarat Health Services, as well as the relocation of the ambulatory care services in a new three-storey building.

"Detailed planning of the expansion works, in association with the design for the helipad, has gone on behind the scenes as we work towards the start of construction in early 2014," Health Minister David Davis said.

The expansion is due to be completed by mid-2016.

Ballarat would also benefit from funding to develop a five-bed mother and baby mental health unit, as part of a \$6 million package.



Images courtesy of Victorian Department of Health.



> REACHING NEW HEIGHTS AT BOX HILL

In March the \$447.5 million Box Hill Hospital redevelopment reached an important milestone with Premier Denis Naphthine and Minister for Health David Davis taking part in a traditional construction ceremony to celebrate the final concrete pour that completes the building structure of the new clinical services building.

"Just 16 months after construction began, the redevelopment has soared from the ground and is on track to open in 2014," Naphthine said. "With the concrete structure now complete, the fit-out of services in the lower levels have already begun."

The Box Hill project includes an increase of more than 200 beds; a larger emergency department supported by 20 short stay beds; a dedicated women's health precinct linked to children's services; and an integrated surgical department with 11 new operating theatres and a surgical admissions area with 20 surgical day beds.

There will also be a new 18-bed intensive care unit; specialist cardiology facilities as well as expanded diagnostics; and inpatient and day beds for cancer and renal patients.



> CHARLTON TO OPEN NEXT YEAR

Work on building the new Charlton Hospital is set to start in July. Signing the contract awarding the building work to Kane Constructions, Health Minister David Davis said the company would be moving promptly to the site in preparation for the construction.

The Victorian Government committed \$22.7 million to the new Charlton Hospital in its 2012 Budget, following an extensive planning and design process in conjunction with the East Wimmera Health Service.

The new hospital will have 15 beds, facilities for urgent care and primary care, a medical clinic, ambulance station, administration section and support services.

The builder will be working towards the new hospital opening by October next year, Davis said.

> BOOST FOR INTERNSHIPS AND PLACEMENTS

In what it describes as a record investment, the Victorian Government is spending \$238 million over four years to increase the number of doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

Included in the package is \$41.5 million over four years to support an additional 496 intern and second year training positions for doctors, an additional 600 graduate nurse positions and 120 additional medical radiation internships. A further \$193.8 million over four years will go to clinical placements for nursing, medical and allied health students, while \$3 million over four years will provide 24 training positions for rural GPs in specialist areas.

> TENDERS CALLED FOR MONASH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The next stage of the Monash Children's Hospital was reached in May with the State Government opening the tender to build the 230-bed facility.

The development will provide a unique hospital focused on the delivery of care for newborns and children through to adolescents in Melbourne's southeast, Health Minister David Davis said. "Additional bed capacity will allow Monash Children's to treat 7,000 more children each year close to where they live."

The development will deliver three dedicated children's operating theatres and a children's procedure room, as well as dedicated children's medical imaging facilities.

It will include 96 paediatric beds, 12 dedicated children's cancer day beds, 20 same day beds and 10 paediatric intensive care beds.

Davis said expressions of interest to manage the project were a significant step forward, with construction due to begin in 2014 and finish in 2016.

The Victorian Budget included \$629.3 million to fund new health capital projects, which the government said included its commitment to fully fund the Monash Children's Hospital and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.



> CANCER CENTRE ON TRACK

Construction on the new \$1 billion Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) continues and is on schedule for completion in 2016.

The purpose-built facility for cancer research, treatment, care and education will provide a new home for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and new cancer research and clinical services for Melbourne Health. It will also provide new cancer research facilities for The University of Melbourne.

The development is in two parts, comprising a new multi-storey building bordering Flemington Road, Grattan Street and Elizabeth Street, while four new floors are being constructed on top of The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

The project is jointly funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, with contributions from member organisations, the sale of surplus land and philanthropic donations.

The new \$1 billion Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

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> WORLD-CLASS FACILITY

The \$1.76 billion Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH), which opens this year, is the central component of a vast precinct being developed on Queensland's Gold Coast, writes *David Carter*.

The hospital stretches across 20 hectares of its Southport site and has seven main buildings with a total floor area of 170,000 square metres. It will share the site with a new 283-bed private hospital and is located adjacent to Griffith University's Gold Coast campus.

The GCUH is state-of-the-art, not only in the delivery of clinical services but in providing the latest technology and knowledge for the training of future medical professionals.

"Changes in training for medical, nursing and allied health professionals have influenced the teaching capabilities within the new GCUH, both in technology and teaching techniques and spaces," says GCUH's director of business transition, Kaylene Sutherland. "The introduction of simulation laboratories will allow staff to undertake mock scenario training, improving clinical practice and skill development. Integrated operating theatres which allow real-time video conferencing in the surgical field will also assist learning and teaching opportunities."

The design was driven by contemporary models of care: Sutherland says the most significant application in GCUH is the high proportion of single-patient bedrooms – over 70 per cent – compared with a national average of about 25 per cent, which provides significant improvements in patient safety through infection control, transport, drug management and risk.

Most wards are generic in their layout, which provides flexibility in placing patients as well as reducing refurbishment costs to meet changed models of care and disease profiles. All wards have built-in lifting and movement equipment for bariatric patients. The hospital has state-of-the-art diagnostic capabilities including an intra-operative MRI in the operating theatre complex and high-tech positron emission

tomography, or PET scanners, for optimal cancer imaging for its patients.

Sutherland says the functional relationships of areas within the hospital also reflect contemporary care models, including a medical assessment unit co-located with the emergency department and satellite medical imaging, while the birthing suites are adjacent to the emergency theatres.

Customers are having an increasing influence on hospital design as the concept of community engagement grows within Australian public hospitals, Sutherland says. During the detailed design stage, mock patient rooms were built and many consumers were taken through them and provided feedback. Staff have also been involved in the design of the new hospital and provided input into the purchasing of equipment.

Design of GCUH was undertaken by architectural firms including Hassell, PDT and Silver Thomas Hanley. Global engineering firm Aurecon, in a joint venture with Sinclair Knight Mertz, delivered building services and structural engineering.

"To provide a world class-leading solution, the design approach needed a comprehensive suite of communication and engineering technologies to support high-level trauma response facilities, including environmental emergency response, helicopter retrieval and a full range of acute medical treatment facilities," Aurecon's engineering joint venture manager Chris Frith says.

"These were implemented to meet sustainable goals and deliver a high efficiency central energy plant, designed to cater for the initial site functionality while provisioned to be able to grow to meet future on-site health care facility demands. The master-planned scheme includes a knowledge and education component comprising dedicated and integrated education and research facilities set among a parklands environment."