

What a difference a year makes

During the last year, the construction site on the Wagga Wagga Health Service campus has gone from a cleared landscape to a busy building site. Stage 3 of the \$431 million Wagga Wagga Health Service Redevelopment includes the construction of the 6-storey Ambulatory Care building with connection to the existing hospital. The building also has underground car parking.

Concrete has been poured for the Level 1 and ground floor suspended slabs, with the pours completed in several stages across the site. Work on the Level 2 slab and its supporting columns is nearing completion. A construction hoist has also been recently installed to lift material and workers from the ground to upper levels.

Ambulatory Care Services will be relocated into the building, including community health, allied health, specialist outpatient clinics, rehabilitation, and Hospital in the Home; oral health; renal dialysis; an older person's mental health unit; and rehabilitation and aged care inpatient units. There is also space for education and training, a retail area including a café and a lecture theatre.

Further information about the Redevelopment, including timeline and aerial views, can be found <http://www.wwhsredev.health.nsw.gov.au/Home>.

Bird's eye view of the Stage 3 site in September 2018 (left) and September 2019 (right).

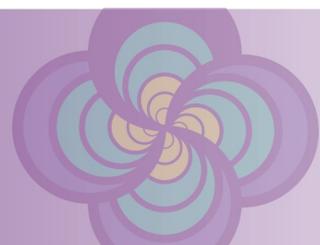


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What I'm looking forward to ...

Professor Paul Finucane (right) shares his views on what he looks forward to in the new Stage 3 building:

What is your role in Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD)?

I'm a Senior Staff Specialist Geriatrician and am part of a team tasked with the clinical care of frail elderly people either in hospital or in the community. I am also responsible for contributing to the further development of Aged Care services across MLHD.

What are you looking forward to most in the new Stage 3 building?

Essentially, greater capacity to do our job more effectively. The very limited number of hospital beds currently at our disposal greatly limits our ability to see elderly patients who present to Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, often with a complex amalgam of physical, mental, functional and social problems. To a fault, we currently tend to get involved at a late stage in the hospital stay of such people.

With the new facility and its 28 Aged Care beds, many more such people will be admitted directly to Aged Care beds from Emergency Department and their hospital care (resulting in hospital discharge) will become far more streamlined.

Where will you be located in the new Stage 3 building?

On Level 4, on the same level as our colleagues in Rehabilitation Medicine and adjacent to the other general medical beds on Level 4 of the existing Wagga Wagga Base Hospital.

How will the new Stage 3 building help you enhance patient care?

Essentially, more resources to optimise the care of elderly and very elderly people who decompensate in the community and require early intervention from the Aged Care team to optimise their care and minimise their hospital stay.



FAST FACTS ...

- 7 concrete slabs to be poured including basement & suspended ground floor, levels 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
- Each suspended slab split into 4 separate concrete pours
- Concrete designed to reach design strength at 28 days
- Average of 70 building workers on site each day in September.

The Project Team seeks your patience during construction and wish to advise that strategies are in place to keep disruptions to a minimum!

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