

## Delivering Tasmania's state of the art health facility

### Welcome to the RHH Redevelopment project!

The final stage of the RHH Redevelopment is now guaranteed with the acceptance of the Guaranteed Construction Sum in December 2015.

The ten-storey inpatient precinct called K-Block is contracted for completion by the end of 2018 and will provide better clinical facilities for Tasmanians.

*RHH Redevelopment Project News* provides information and updates on the project. You can also find information about the project by visiting the website:

[www.rhhredevelopment.tas.gov.au](http://www.rhhredevelopment.tas.gov.au)

Or email the project at:

[redvelopment.rhh@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:redvelopment.rhh@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

### In this issue...

In this edition of the RHH Redevelopment Project News you'll find information on:

- Fairbrother fundraiser
- hospital relocations
- detailed design work and
- an update on the temporary inpatient facility.



# New Cancer Care Better for Patients

Inpatient oncology is just weeks away from moving to the ninth floor of A-Block.

Nurse Unit Manager (NUM), Laura Pyszkowski, is looking forward to the new ward that will be better for patients.



Laura Pyszkowski, NUM Inpatient Oncology

‘We will have more single rooms when we move to level nine,’ she said.

That means more privacy for patients and more capacity to provide isolation for patients with additional infection control or immune system needs.

Inpatient oncology and iodine treatment will be co-located on the new ward. This will increase the treatment options available to patients in the one location.

Patients will benefit from a different physical environment too.

‘The space on the ninth floor is lighter and brighter and from a mood perspective it makes a difference to have that light and to have the views that you get on level nine,’ Laura said.

‘The patient spaces are larger too. Everyone who is going to work on level nine knows that’s a win for patients.’



The move is a step in the right direction for closer working relationships.

‘The design includes combined staff spaces. Doctors and nurses will share work areas on the new ward and that’s better for patients because it provides a space for more clinical discussions.’

The close proximity of inpatient oncology and the day chemotherapy unit on level eight will encourage more rapid collaboration between health professionals.

‘There is different expertise across the two wards and it will be easier to call on this in the new setting.’

Oncology patients may need inpatient care at any point in the cancer journey including at diagnosis, end of life or for complex treatments such as stem cell transplants, some chemotherapies or radiotherapy treatments.



View along 9A hallway. One bed room (above),

# Inside the Temporary Inpatient Facility

The temporary inpatient facility will provide a modern hospital for medicine and mental health patients.

The builder is working to fix the eighteen modules on level two which have been impacted by mould. This involves removing and replacing all porous materials damaged by water. Non-porous materials are being cleaned to industry standard.

While cleaning is underway, it is critical that cross-contamination of mould spores to clean areas of the facility does not occur.

On advice from industry hygienists:

- affected areas have been enclosed
- plastic barriers have been installed to seal penetrations between levels
- ventilation ducts have been sealed and
- contractors are wearing personal protective clothing which also reduces unnecessary contact with mould spores.

Final fit out including installation of cabling, joinery and floor vinyl is continuing on level three where no contamination has occurred.

A number of other non-compliance issues relating to the construction and installation of the facility are also being rectified.

These rectification works are a matter for the builder and their sub-contract arrangements and are occurring at no cost to the Tasmanian taxpayer.

The RHH Redevelopment will accept possession of the new facility when it is independently verified that it is safe and fit for purpose.

# Building Community

Fairbrother is a proud Tasmanian construction business helping redevelop the Royal. They're also proud community supporters and have started fundraising for the RHH Redevelopment.

On Saturday, 3 September 2016, Rod Bennett, Early Works Manager, John Holland Fairbrother Joint Venture, will complete a four hour swim to raise money for mental health services.



Rod Bennett, Early Works Manager

There's still stigma surrounding mental health problems yet an estimated 45 per cent of Australians will experience a mental health disorder in their lifetimes.

Many individuals and businesses make contributions that are often the 'icing on the cake' for hospital services. These donations provide personal touches, new equipment or additions that can help make a patient's hospital stay a little easier.

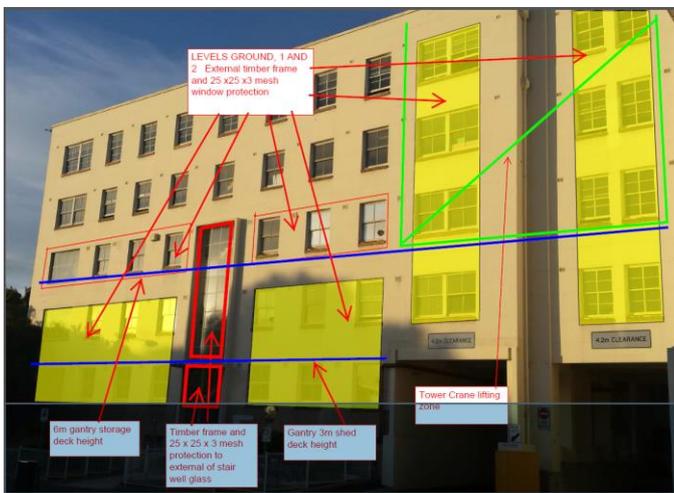
Rod aims to swim 10 kilometres and raise \$10 000, a fantastic injection of support to mental health services.

Friends Health and Fitness in North Hobart will host the event. Fairbrother will be calling for support from their sub-contractors and suppliers. More information on the fundraiser will be available over the coming weeks.

# Fresh Air and Natural Light

During construction of K-Block, window protections and air filters will be used in some areas.

In areas closest to the construction site, a 10 mm acrylic panel will be installed internally over these windows. They will allow natural light in and also reduce the impact of dust and noise.



Proposed installation of mesh coverings on E-Block.

Windows in A- and E-Blocks on Campbell Street, closest to major crane lifts, will have mesh coverings installed externally because they provide the highest level of protection.



Trial of fan prototype.

Areas without air-conditioning on the ground floor and on levels 1 and 2 of C-Block and

E-Block, will have filtered, ventilation fans installed in the acrylic window coverings to provide ventilation to all rooms. This will provide fresh air as well as help mitigate some construction noise. Noise testing has occurred on different fan types to reduce the impact on patients and staff so the quietest fan will be installed.

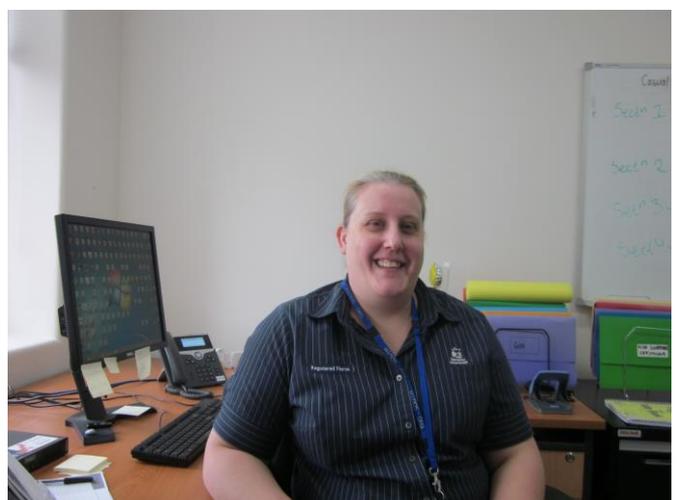
There are also various air intakes and openings around the hospital. To ensure air quality is not compromised by dust, air filters will be installed. The builder has been working on an air intake treatment plan for these areas.

# Patients the Centre of Education

Delivering patient-focused care is what the Centre for Education and Research Nursing and Midwifery is all about.

Erin McLeod, Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON) told RHH Redevelopment News that patient care is constantly changing. Nurses and midwives make up the largest part of the health workforce and the Centre helps them keep up-to-date with developments in their field.

‘The changes in the technology available now compared to what was available five years ago, are massive,’ Erin said.



Erin McLeod, ADON, Centre for Education and Research Nursing and Midwifery.

As part of the RHH Redevelopment, 26 educators have moved from the hospital campus to offices in the Commonwealth Bank building on Liverpool Street.

Their former accommodation in E-Block is located over the arc of the major crane lifts that will occur when K-Block is being built.

Staff safety was the key factor in their move however Erin says there have also been unexpected benefits.



View into Centre for Education and Research Nursing and Midwifery.

‘The new accommodation is mostly open plan with an ‘open door’ policy on the offices that are here. We’ve already found more staff interaction and collaboration,’ Erin said.

‘Even before major construction starts, we’ve also already noticed that it is much quieter with less street noise.’

Anyone who has moved house can empathise – moving is never without challenges and it means getting used to some changes.

Erin said that those educators who work at the RHH campus have had to structure their work a bit differently but they know that the move is another step towards building K-Block.

‘The Tasmanian public will get a new hospital. Our move means adjusting how we work to help make that happen,’ said Erin.

## Designed by Staff

It’s no surprise that architects design hospitals but not everyone knows how much effort goes into hospital design by staff.

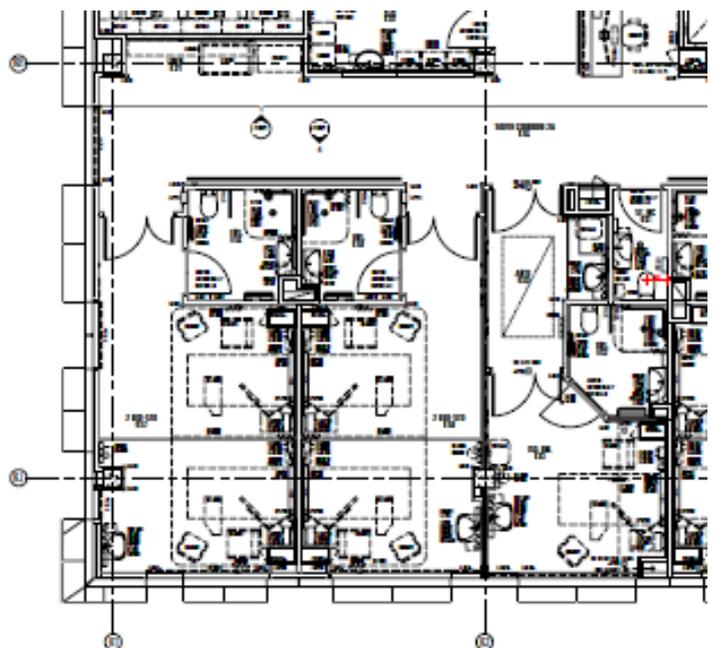
As the end users of the hospital, involving a range of staff is essential to ensuring the end result delivers a functional health facility. This is sometimes referred to as ‘fit for purpose’.

Staff consultation via ‘user groups’ has been part of the design process since day one.

As we near commencement of the K-Block build, the RHH Redevelopment is doing a final lap of users. This is to double check what is known as ‘quadrant plans’.

Confirmation of the floor plans occurred during the Rescue Taskforce in late 2014. The quadrant plans are more detailed plans. They show the layout of all the furniture, fittings and equipment of each room.

Making sure that each detail is right means that K-Block will be a place that helps RHH staff do their job – providing care and treatment to all of us.



Section of level 9, K-Block Quadrant Plan

# Mental Health Check

- The number of people who can get inpatient mental health treatment will remain the same. Currently 33 beds are operational in the mental health inpatient unit.

|                                      | Temporary inpatient facility | K-Block |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| High dependency unit (formerly PICU) | 6 beds*                      | 6 beds  |
| Secure unit                          | 12 beds                      | 10 beds |
| Open unit                            | 14 beds                      | 17 beds |
| Total                                | 32 beds*                     | 33 beds |

\*The high dependency unit includes a de-escalation room which can accommodate an inpatient if an additional bed is required.

- Some groups of very unwell patients have additional needs such as young people, people with disabilities or women who have been sexually assaulted. The high dependency unit design allows areas to be closed off to provide a private space for vulnerable patients where needed.
- Most of the rooms have been designed for single occupancy. Two rooms were designed as two-bed wards and two large rooms were designed to be used flexibly as two-bed wards when needed or as self-contained spaces for patients with additional needs.
- The practice of a discrete Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit has been superseded by a new way of working with patients which is called the high dependency unit.
- A new model of care for mental health patients will be implemented providing a more fluid step up/step down model where high dependency patients are collocated with patients of the secure ward and where some beds will be used flexibly depending on patient need.
- The high dependency unit will remain as the State’s acute psychiatric care facility.

# Meet the Team

Mel Barrett loves her role as the Project Support Officer and thoroughly enjoys working with what she says is a ‘fantastic team’. Here are five things about Mel:



Mel Barrett

**Number 1** – Mel worked for the Department of Education in school support roles before joining the RHH Redevelopment.

**Number 2** – One of Mel’s major functions is the quality management of furniture, fittings and equipment (FF&E) requirements. She works closely with Nurse Unit Managers to identify the needs of each ward, ensuring these are documented on the room data sheets which are the detailed plans used by the builders. She orders and audits the arrival of stock and inspects the installation of FF&E during the commissioning of new wards so they are fit for purpose.

**Number 3** – Mel is always willing to lend a hand to colleagues who need assistance.

**Number 4** – She is a fantastic resource because she is one of the best networkers in the office and has got to know staff at the Royal in a short space of time.

**Number 5** – Mel is a committed animal lover. Amongst many pets, she is owner of a charismatic miniature horse named Rambo.