

Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program



Project Update - December 2022



Fresh look for Tamworth mental health services

Updated concept plans for the new mental health unit at Tamworth Hospital have been released, showcasing expanded facilities designed to support the recovery and wellbeing of adults and young people in need of mental health care.

The artist's impression (above) shows what the new mental health unit may look like when it opens in 2025, replacing the Banksia Mental Health Unit.

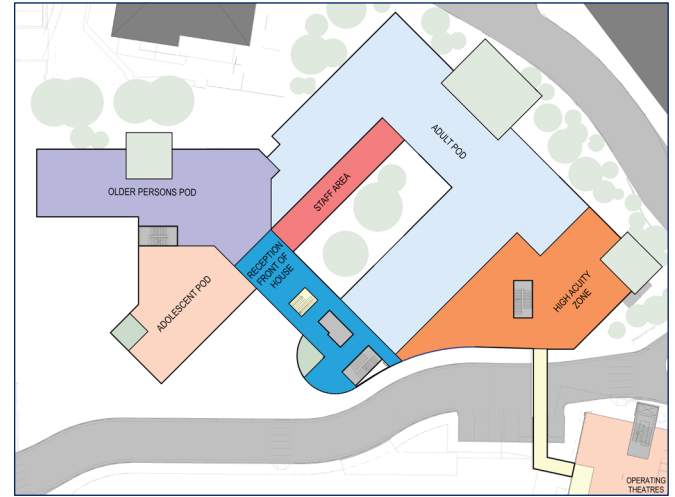
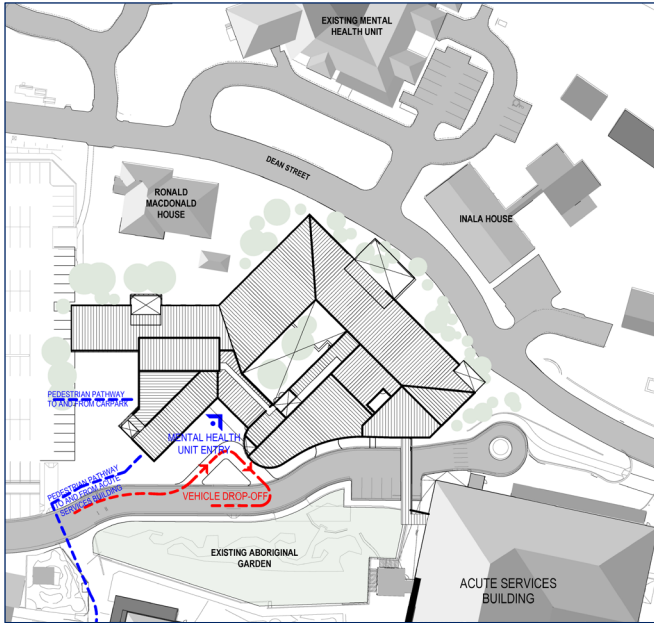
The updated concept plans include new child and adolescent community mental health facilities and additional adolescent inpatient beds to ensure young people who need care can stay closer to home.

This is in addition to the adult and older persons' facilities previously planned. Adding services for young people provides a unique opportunity to further improve the consumer experience and positive outcomes.

The new facility will feature:

- Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Services
- Additional adolescent inpatient beds (4)
- 20-bed adult pod, as well as 5-bed adult high acuity zone
- 8-bed older persons' pod

For more information, [visit our website](#) or contact HI-Banksia@health.nsw.gov.au.



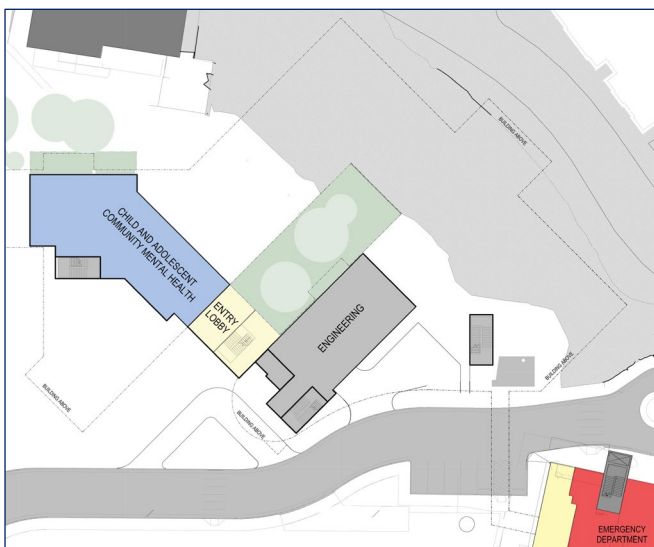
Level 2, showing the inpatient areas for adolescents, adults and older persons, as well as the high acuity zone, with a link to the Emergency Department.

The staff area is located on Level 3.

The new unit will provide welcoming, comfortable, safe and supportive facilities, as well as bring a much-needed expansion of services to the area. Construction is planned to commence in mid-2023.

The project is part of the NSW Government's \$700 million Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program, an initiative designed to support the delivery of mental health care reform across the state.

The NSW Government announced in June 2022 an additional \$14.6 million for the project to include facilities for adolescents and young people.



Level 1 of the new building, showing the child and adolescent community and mental health wing.

Groups formed to advise on creativity and culture

An Arts in Health Working Group has formed to ensure the Arts are appropriately reflected in the new mental health unit.

At the same time, Connecting with Country meetings are underway to ensure the cultural knowledge of Aboriginal people is valued and respected as part of the design and building of the new facility.

The Arts in Health Working Group comprises a mixture of health staff, community members, carers and consumers, meeting regularly to share ideas and provide advice.

It's been proven that exposure to the arts has a profoundly beneficial impact, improving patient health and wellbeing. It also supports a positive working environment for staff.

The rich culture of the Kamilaroi and Gomeroi Peoples will be considered as part of the creative aspects of the building.