

Gunnedah Hospital Redevelopment



Gamilaraay language project – feedback sought

The Gunnedah Hospital Redevelopment project team respectfully acknowledges the Gomeroi, Kamilaroi, Gamilaroi People as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which the Gunnedah Hospital is built. We also pay respect to the Elders, community members and the community-controlled sector who partner with us to improve the health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across our District.

As part of the redevelopment, we are seeking the assistance of local community members to share Gamilaraay language for use in wayfinding signage throughout the Hospital. Construction on the redevelopment is underway and due for completion in late 2025.

Language consultations were held at Red Chief Local Aboriginal Land Council during March 2025 with Odee Welsh and community members. A draft list of language translations is included below.

We are seeking community feedback on the translations until 5pm on Monday 7 April 2025. If you have feedback, please email: HI-Gunnedah-Redevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au or phone 02 9978 5468.

General information about the Gunnedah Hospital Redevelopment can be found here: [Gunnedah Hospital Redevelopment - Hunter New England](#)

Gunnedah Hospital area (and service description)	Recommended Gamilaraay by attendees	Cultural interpretation (in English)	Notes
Welcome <i>(at front of Hospital)</i>	Gulbirraay	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19/03/2025: It was agreed by all attendees to recommend Gulbirraay. Next action will be to work on how we can make the narrative “why Gulbirraay not Gulbiyaay?” more interactive.
Emergency Department <i>(urgent, unplanned medical care, 24hr service)</i>	Barraa·baraay	With haste/quickness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19/03/2025: It was agreed by all attendees to recommend Barra·baraay.
Inpatient Unit <i>(place for overnight stay for ongoing care and treatment)</i>	Maarumaldanha	Healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19/03/2025: it was agreed by all attendees to recommend Maarumaldanha. As this word is all encompassing for patients stays in this unit (resting, healing and under observation).
Maternity <i>(care for women and their babies throughout the pregnancy and postpartum journey)</i>	Gunii-baa	Motherhood / Mother-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19/03/2025: It was agreed by all attendees to recommend Gunii-baa.
Aboriginal Liaison Office	Mari-gu	For the purpose of Aboriginal people (Mari / mob) or belonging to the Aboriginal people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19/03/2025: It was agreed by all attendees to recommend Mari-gu. Consider a note in the translation that these are spaces to support Aboriginal People but they are available for anyone in the community.

Gunnedah Hospital area (and service description)	Recommended Gamilaraay by attendees	Cultural interpretation (in English)	Notes
Birth Suite <i>(birthing rooms for labour and delivery of babies)</i>	Mirii yanan dhiil	Shooting Star Wilga. The shooting star symbolising the birth of a child and their soul.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The shooting star signifies birth and arrival of the child soul. Wilga tree has great significance to birthing. 19/03/2025: The men who attended agreed to withdraw from voting on this item in order for the women in the group to decide on the preferred and consult with community to confirm. 25/03/2025: Following the workshops, a revised preference was accepted by the women in community to combine two previous options that now includes reference to the Wilga and Shooting Star. Next step is to explore a separate project for external language in the birthing courtyard to include a passage that references the importance of local creeks and the creek and waters significance to birthing. To be workshopped and taken back to the attendees for feedback.

Actions for the development team:

- Review the birthing suite courtyard area for potential sentence/wording to describe the culture aspect of birthing i.e wording related to water, caves or birthing trees. This will likely include reference to the two nearby creeks and their significance to birthing and motherhood.
- Review the possibility of adding a QR code that could integrate nature sounds or possible pronunciation of the Aboriginal wording or a video.
- Explore options for partnering with Red Chief, LALC, and PRAMS for special projects relating to the interactivity of language use and connection of this project to community. Could launch some of these projects at NAIDOC this year.