



The NSW Government is working to deliver the new Tamworth Mental Health Unit as part of the \$700 million Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program. The new facility will provide the local community with contemporary mental health services, including a direct connection to Tamworth Hospital.

Local artists to work on new mental health unit

Three local artists have been chosen to produce unique artworks for our new mental health unit, including a new sculptural artwork that will be displayed in the main entry.

A sculptural work by Gamilaroi Yinnar Amy Hammond (pictured), will transform the main entry atrium into a welcoming arrival space for the new service.

Large-scale graphic artwork, created by Gomeroi woman Tess Reading, will feature on walls and glazing throughout the building.

Proud Gomeroi woman Audrey Trindall will lead sessions with Aboriginal staff and community to incorporate language and cultural interpretation in wayfinding signage.

Following the public call for expressions of interest in the project, local Elder Uncle Neville Sampson helped the project team with assessing the applicants.

In coming months, the artists will begin research, consulting with staff and engaging with the community. The artwork will be created and installed next year, with the new facility due to be constructed by the end of 2025.

There will be additional opportunities for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists to submit artwork for use in bedrooms and communal spaces.





'Lofty' idea wins crane name competition

The 31-metre tower crane helping to build the new mental health unit is now known as "Lofty", following a public competition and unveiling of its name.

Three crane names were shortlisted from a total of 185 entries and put out for public vote. Almost 1000 votes were cast, with "Lofty" receiving 707 votes, followed by "Burrurga" (local Aboriginal word for the Brolga crane bird) and "Bunji" (meaning "mate"). The winner was Brenda Mears, with gift vouchers also going to runners-up Fidelis Jaravani and Megan Hall.

A big thank you to builder Hansen Yuncken, who supplied the gift vouchers and arranged the "Lofty" banner for the crane.

Pictured (from left) Hansen Yuncken Project Manager Claire Betteridge, Hunter New England Local Health District Quality Assurance Manager Kate Bowman, Brenda Mears, Fidelis Jaravani and Health Infrastructure Project Director Lachlan Falconer-Adams.



Planning continues for link bridge

The project team is continuing to consult with staff on constructing the link bridge that will join the new mental health unit to the main hospital building.

The team is keen to keep disruption to hospital services to a minimum while the bridge is installed. Elements of the construction include:

- Installing two concrete columns on the hospital side of the ED road to support the bridge
- Making a hole in the wall on level 2 where the link bridge will join the hospital building
- Constructing the bridge in three sections off-site so they can be installed using a small crane in a single day.

The link bridge construction is likely to occur in early 2025. More details about the link bridge construction will be shared closer to when work is due to begin.

For more information about the project, email HI-banksia@health.nsw.gov.au or visit: hneinfra.health.nsw.gov.au/projects/tamworth-mental-health-unit