

Tamworth Mental Health Unit Project Update – April 2024 Sent to all Tamworth Hospital and HNELHD Mental Health Staff



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The NSW Government is progressing with work to deliver the new Tamworth Mental Health Unit which will provide enhanced mental health services for residents in Tamworth and surrounding communities. The project will deliver a new purpose-built facility with contemporary mental health services, including a direct connection to Tamworth Hospital, which will benefit patients and staff. The Tamworth Mental Health Unit is part of the NSW Government's \$700 million Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program.

Construction has started

The first sod was formally turned on 9 April to mark the start of construction of a new mental health unit to replace the existing Banksia building.

About 50 people were on hand to watch the milestone event, with shovel duty going to Hunter New England Mental Health General Manager Jonathan Holt, Co-Design Group representative Di Wyatt, Health Infrastructure Director Michael Brooks and Hansen Yuncken Regional Manager Pat McAllister (pictured below).

The event opened with a Welcome to Country conducted by Gomeroi Elder Uncle Neville Sampson.

Dr Ramsey Awad, Hunter New England Health's Executive Director for Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability, said the new unit's design pays respect to the culture and values of the Kamilaroi and Gomeroi people.

"The colours of the new unit draw from local inspiration, as well as views of the mountains beyond and their connected skyline, to create a sense of place and enable people to know where they are on Country," Dr Awad said.

"The three rivers surrounding Tamworth are also reflected in the unit's exterior colours and design.

"A new forecourt will be created full of native gardens as a place to gather, along with a family room and courtyard, providing space for people and their families to heal."

The new unit will provide welcoming, safe and supportive facilities with an expansion of services including:

- adolescent inpatient beds (four)
- 20-bed adult area, as well as five-bed adult high acuity zone
- eight-bed older persons' area.

Hansen Yuncken was appointed to build the new facility following a competitive tender process.

Services at Tamworth Hospital and Banksia Mental Health Unit will continue to operate as normal during construction, which is expected to be completed in 2025.



For more information

If you have a question or would like to know more, email HI-Banksia@health.nsw.gov.au or visit the [project website](#).



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work, and pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging. We are committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to land, waters and sea and their rich contribution to society.

