

April 2023

## A new mental health unit for Tamworth

### ***What is the current status of this project?***

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.

Early works started in April 2023. Main construction work is planned to commence in mid-2023 and be complete by 2025.

### ***Why is the new unit needed?***

The new unit will replace the existing Banksia Mental Health Unit, providing welcoming, comfortable, safe and supportive facilities, as well as bring a much-needed expansion of services to the area.

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.

### ***What's included in the updated design?***

All the existing services found in the Banksia Mental Health Unit will be provided by the new unit, a modern and contemporary facility physically connected to the Tamworth Hospital Emergency Department.

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

### ***Will there be an increase in beds?***

Yes. There will be a total of 37 beds in the new mental health unit, 12 more than in the Banksia facility (four adolescent, 20 adult, five high acuity and eight older persons).

### ***How will the child and adolescent community mental health services and adolescent beds be accommodated as part of the new design?***

In addition to the adult and older persons' facilities previously planned, the design has been expanded to include additional services in child and adolescent community mental health and extra adolescent inpatient beds. This will create 37 beds in total, 12 more than in the existing Banksia Mental Health Unit.

After extensive clinical design and consultation, it was determined that all inpatient beds should be co-located on a single floor on Level 2 to achieve desired Models of Care. This resulted in the design of the Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Service on Level 1.

### ***Will there be 24-hour access to the unit?***

Yes, the unit will continue to operate 24 hours per day.

### ***Who has been involved in designing the facility?***

People with lived experience of mental illness have been involved in co-designing the new Banksia Unit. Throughout the project, the project team has been consulting with key staff, carers and consumers with an existing connection to the services, as well as other staff, clinicians and the general community.

The consultation ensures the views of all stakeholders are well represented.

### ***What will happen to the current facilities?***

The existing Banksia Unit will be retained and re-purposed for another use.

## **Early works – car parking**

### ***What work is planned?***

Work begins in April 2023 on preparing the site for the new mental health unit.

### ***Who will be doing this work?***

A W Edwards has won the contract for the project's early works, providing new car parking spaces in four zones around the hospital. This work will result in an overall increase of car parking for visitors and staff, even after parking spaces are removed as part of the main construction works on the new facility. The construction site compound will be established at the site of the former Rotary buildings.

### ***What is the schedule for car park changes***

Construction on car park spaces around the hospital campus will occur almost simultaneously and be complete by early August:

- Starting 12 April: 42 new spaces in Car Park B (north-west).
- Starting 14 April: 17 new spaces in Car Park A (road). Road will be restricted to one-way traffic for six to eight weeks.
- Starting 18 April: 40 new spaces in Car Park A (south-west).
- Starting 20 April: 36 new spaces in Car Park D (north-east).

### ***How do I find out about construction activity?***

Tamworth Hospital will keep you informed. There's also an [interactive construction map](#) that provides up-to-date information.

***When will the work be completed?***

Work on car parking will be finished by August 2023.

***Will this work impede access to ED and the ambulance bays?***

No. Construction work will be scheduled to ensure access to essential areas is maintained at all times, including the helipad.

***How do I report an issue related to construction activity?***

Contact Engineering Manager Tom Pollard on 6767 8030 or Facility Planner Connie Matthews on 0410 837 518.

***How can I have my say about this project?***

If you would like to provide feedback on this project, either speak to a member of the project team or email [HI-Banksia@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HI-Banksia@health.nsw.gov.au).

More information on the project can be found at <https://www.hneinfra.health.nsw.gov.au/projects/banksia>.