

DATE: 28 June 2021

SUBJECT: Griffith Hospital Redevelopment

Please attribute to a Health Infrastructure spokesperson:

The NSW Government has allocated \$20 million in funding as part of the 2021-22 State Budget to continue planning and construction of the \$250 million Griffith Base Hospital redevelopment.

Health Infrastructure recently lodged its State Significant Development (SSD) application for the clinical services building, which includes a mental health short-stay model of care within the new health facility. The redevelopment will include a Short Stay Unit that will incorporate care for people aged 16 years and older who would benefit from a short period of reassuring and safe, hospital-based mental health care.

Construction for the clinical services building is expected to start in 2022, following approval of the SSDA and is expected to be operational by 2025.

In addition to planning for the clinical services building, the early works phase of the broader hospital redevelopment is continuing with the new non-clinical services building and the temporary paediatrics unit expected to be completed at the end of the year.

To facilitate the staging of the hospital redevelopment and minimise disruption to the running of the Griffith hospital, a temporary car park is also set to open this month.

Please attribute to a Murrumbidgee Local Health District spokesperson:

The care of people with mental illness is an ongoing priority of Griffith Base Hospital and Community Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Service.

The new unit will complement the Griffith Community Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Service, which currently provides specialist mental health care for adults and adolescents that is close to home, accessible, personalised, evidence-based and recovery-focused.

Specialist mental health care for adults, older persons and children and adolescents, including visiting psychiatrists, is currently available as part of the Griffith Community Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol services, ensuring that care is close to home, accessible, personalised, evidence-based and recovery-focused.

The Griffith team covers the following specialties:

- Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (0-17 years)
- Perinatal and Infant mental health Services

- Specialist Youth Mental Health Services (14-24 years)
- Specialist Adult Mental Health Services
- Specialist Older Peoples Mental Health Mental Services (OPMH)
- Community Dementia Behaviour Assessment and Management Services (DBAMS)
- Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services
- Farming Community Counselling
- My Step to Mental Wellbeing (short-term, free counselling)

There is no referral required to access these services.

Services can be accessed by calling MLHD Accessline on telephone 1800 800 944. If you or someone you know is experiencing high levels of mental distress or thinking about suicide, seek help immediately by calling the MLHD Accessline on 1800 800 944 (24 hours, seven days per week) or Lifeline on 13 11 14.

If there is an immediate risk to your safety or the safety of others, please go to the nearest Emergency Department as soon as possible or call emergency services on Triple Zero (000).

ENDS