

Countdown to new Emergency Department opening

We're now only weeks away from the opening of the new \$25 million Emergency Department extension.

Construction of the building exterior is now complete, and the finishing touches are being put on the interior. This includes furniture, fittings and equipment being installed, and a final coat of paint.

New equipment in the emergency room includes pendants (below). Mounted to the ceiling, with large arms that move around the patient being treated, they provide oxygen, suction, compressed air and other tools medical staff need to treat patients.

Other features of the new Emergency Department include additional treatment areas, enhanced mental health and paediatric care, more resuscitation beds and increased short-stay capacity.

Once the new building opens, the existing Emergency Department will be refurbished to provide a larger facility to treat patients. When complete in early 2021, the expanded facilities will ensure the growing and diverse medical needs of the Bankstown region will be met well into the future.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AS WE BUILD THE NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT BANKSTOWN-LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL

Art to transform new ED

The healing and calming powers of art are widely recognised, which is why a major artwork will be an important part of the new Emergency Department.

Indigenous artist Amy Lea Hill has been collaborating with local Aboriginal young people and Elders through workshops to create three panels that celebrate the region's people, flora and wildlife.

The Cooks and Georges rivers are a focal point of the artwork, highlighting the importance of these waterways to Indigenous culture and life, and the animals that swim in them. The Gymea Lily and gum trees also feature, symbolising life and rebirth.

The Elders were keen to see lots of animals feature in the piece, including black cockatoos, fish, turtles and goannas, as these are the wildlife they have seen in the area throughout their lives.

A centre circle represents community and the footprints reflect the Elders who consulted on the project, as well as this year's NAIDOC Week theme: "Always was, always will be."

Amy said her art was important to continuing culture and keeping stories alive.

"I'm doing this mainly for my kids," Amy said.

Amy is a Kamilaroi woman and has been an active member of the Sutherland Shire Aboriginal community since childhood. Her artwork will be unveiled early next year when the redevelopment project is complete.



Sally gets the job done

When Sally Rouland migrated to Australia from Yorkshire 13 years ago, she never expected to be managing the Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital Emergency Department (ED) redevelopment.

She began working at the hospital in 2008 as a physiotherapist, but decided to branch out into project management. After cutting her teeth on a few hospital projects, she stepped into the project officer role when the opportunity arose 18 months ago.

Sally said her role is to be the liaison between the builders of the redevelopment and the hospital and to ensure the least amount of disruption.

"Having a clinical background, I understand the hospital environment and what's needed clinically. I've also worked at the hospital for a long time, so I know everyone, and can act as a link between the stakeholders and the builders," Sally said.

One of the challenges of her job is managing the disruptive work within a clinical environment.

"There's a lot of consultation to ensure we can make the work run smoothly for everyone," Sally said.

She said the best part of her job was consulting and working with a wide variety of stakeholders and learning more about how the hospital operates.

"It's also exciting to see how the building takes form, seeing the development in front of your eyes on a daily basis," Sally said.

"It's satisfying getting the best outcome for the hospital within project budget and scope, which will benefit patients and staff with enhanced facilities."

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