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New era in care as modern hospital building opens

The new \$68.7 million clinical services building at Bowral & District Hospital welcomed its first patients today in an historic milestone for the Southern Highlands.

Featuring state-of-the-art amenities and a contemporary design, the new building provides additional capacity for the community to receive the highest level of quality health care.

Bowral & District Hospital General Manager Ken Barnett said the opening of the building was a fantastic milestone for the 130-year-old hospital and the rich history it shared with the region.

“The new purpose-built facility is world-class and will meet the needs of our community well into the future,” he said.

“It includes a new emergency department, new operating theatres, adult and paediatric inpatient wards, bariatric rooms, new rehabilitation spaces and four negative pressure rooms to support infection control.

“There are amenities for families with relatives in palliative care, increased birthing facilities for expectant mums, and a building design that ensures rooms have plenty of natural light and views of the beautiful Highlands landscape.”

Mr Barnett said the community was at the heart of the redevelopment project and had been engaged and consulted throughout the planning, construction and delivery of the project.

He said both community and staff had emphasised the importance of privacy in treatment and recovery spaces in the new building.

“The new building has been designed to provide only single and double rooms, each with an ensuite, supporting our community to recover with the privacy, respect and dignity that they deserve,” he said.

Improved access and wayfinding are key design features, with both physical and aesthetic connections to the existing hospital and a complementary colour scheme that celebrates the Southern Highlands.

The most recent 2020-2021 state budget included the NSW Government announcing an additional \$55 million for stage two of the Bowral & District Hospital redevelopment project, which will include a second building on the hospital campus. Planning for stage two will start soon.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the opening of the new building is being celebrated with the launch of a video showcasing the new facility and some of the faces that helped bring it to fruition. It can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/BowralandDistrictHospital>