

# nWCH Project – Master Plan

## Frequently Asked Questions – July 2021

The new Women’s and Children’s Hospital (nWCH) Project has reached another major milestone with the release of the Master Plan, marking the end of the planning phase for our new world-class facility.

The planning document reveals key details about what our new hospital will offer South Australian women, children and their families.

### **What is the nWCH Master Plan?**

The purpose of the nWCH Master Plan is to identify and evaluate how functional areas will be connected in the new Women’s and Children’s Hospital (nWCH). It also considers existing site conditions and infrastructure, key clinical connections, utilities and assets, environmental considerations, access and transport.

We will combine a rigorous understanding of health planning and design principles with cross-sector experience to deliver a new world-class facility for women and children in South Australia

The nWCH Master Plan describes the:

- Project context and strategic importance of the new hospital
- Design philosophies and principles
- Opportunities that contribute to urban renewal
- Existing site considerations
- Overview of the nWCH site
- An integrated solution
- Health planning response
- Access, permeability and activation
- Site investigations and strategies

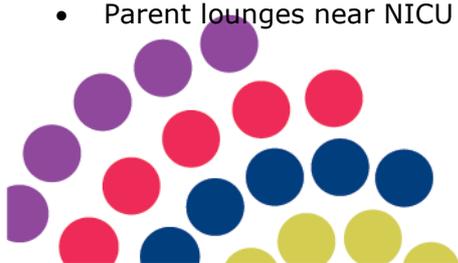
### **Who has contributed to the Master Plan?**

Along with the input of technical specialists the Master Plan has been informed by the feedback of clinicians, staff and the community. The collection of images contained within the Master Plan reveal some of the proposed key design features of the new world-class facility.

### **What are the key design features?**

Key features of the nWCH include:

- 500 treatment spaces – 59 more than the current site
- An Emergency Department (ED) almost double the size of the current ED (24 to 43 treatment spaces)
- More beds, neonatal cots, theatres and recovery bays
- 170 outpatient consultation rooms - 30 more than the current site
- 14 Women’s Assessment Service spaces
- In-room accommodation suite including bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms
- Parent lounges near NICU



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- 2 air link bridges to connect the nWCH to the RAH for use of the helipad, Intensive Care Unit and other clinical services
- A bridge over the rail line that will connect the site to the western Park Lands and the new multi-level car park
- 1,215 car parks - almost double what is available at the current site
- Disability and pram parking closer to the hospital
- Main entry on Level 3 with views to the western Park Lands and access to a landscaped play space, retail and consumer facilities
- Emergency vehicle access to the ED at the rear of the hospital
- Approximately 108,000m<sup>2</sup> (excluding carpark and outdoor space)
- 12 floors
- More outdoor space, respite areas and children's playing areas
- Australia's first 100 per cent electric hospital

### **Will the new hospital look like the Master Plan images?**

The Master Plan images represent a point in time and will continue to evolve during the design phase.

### **What stage is the project at?**

The project will now enter the Concept Design phase. Concept design is a high level process which shows the relationship between the clinical functions, services and other facilities in the hospital. It identifies where individual departments are located, and the area that they will occupy within each floor of the building. This is often referred to as 'blocking and stacking'.

### **Will staff and the community have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Master Plan images?**

These preliminary images represent a point in time and will continue to evolve during the design phase.

Feedback from clinicians, staff and the community is considered throughout all aspects of the planning and design of the new hospital.

Their ongoing involvement and input is vital to delivering the best outcome for our community, and to ensure we provide services that support their health and wellbeing, both now and into the future. Any comments, suggestions and ideas can be sent to [nWCHengagement@sa.gov.au](mailto:nWCHengagement@sa.gov.au)

### **Were staff and consumers involved during the planning phase?**

Reaching this phase of the project is thanks to more than 1,000 hours of consultation with 700 clinicians, hospital staff and consumers.

#### **For more information**

nWCH Project  
Level 1, Norwich House  
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### **How can consumers be involved in the planning of the new Women’s and Children’s Hospital?**

It's important to us that our new hospital and healthcare services meet the needs of the people who use them, so we are inviting consumers and the South Australian community to help shape our new hospital.

We are excited to have as many different voices as possible involved in our planning. There are a number of ways members of the community can get involved, such as taking part in regular meetings and consultation discussions, once-off focus groups or online surveys.

If you are a consumer and would like to be involved in the design of the new Women’s and Children’s Hospital, you can register your interest on our website [wch.sa.gov.au/nWCH](http://wch.sa.gov.au/nWCH)

### **Where will the car park be located?**

One of the key design features is a new bridge, which will enable families and staff to cross from the nWCH to the hospital’s new, multi-level car park and Adelaide’s Park Lands.

### **How many car park spaces will there be in the new hospital?**

The purpose-built car park will hold include over 1,200 spaces, almost double that available at the current hospital site.

Disability parks will be in close proximity to the hospital, more accessible and more user friendly than the current arrangement at the WCH. This will greatly benefit many of the most frequent users of the hospital.

### **How will the hospital link to the RAH?**

There will be two air link bridges between the nWCH and the Royal Adelaide Hospital to provide physical and clinical connectivity, giving women access to adult clinical support, including the Intensive Care Unit, and the helipad. There will also be a link on level 1 which will provide back of house connectivity.

### **Will the new site be big enough to meet future demand?**

Our new hospital will be significantly larger than our current hospital, with the footprint growing from 96,000m<sup>2</sup> to 108,000m<sup>2</sup>, and some non-clinical services will be relocated offsite, resulting in even more space for patient treatment areas.

The contemporary healthcare design will ensure the new facility will be adaptable and respond to the evolution of models of care and future trends in medical and technological advancements.

As well as an intensive consultation and planning program, two independent peer reviews have been undertaken of the Schedule of Accommodation for the nWCH, which included benchmarking against peer hospitals, and which informed the proposed size and scope of the nWCH.

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### Will all the wards have 24 beds?

Most of the wards in our new hospital will have 24 beds. However, there will be 2 paediatric 20-bed units and an adolescent 20-bed unit. All three units will have capacity to expand to 24 beds if required. The Paediatric Intensive Care Unit will be built as a 16 bed unit (an increase from 12) with capacity to expand by additional 8 beds.

### How much will the nWCH cost?

The total \$1.95 billion cost of the new hospital includes the base build, as well as other delivery costs such as a multi-level carpark, bridge and other roadworks, the Park Lands link, biomedical engineering, furniture, fittings, equipment, IT, contingency costs and relocation costs.

Four cost peer reviews were commissioned – two independent reviews and two Department for Infrastructure and Transport reviews, which all support the cost estimate.

The nWCH costing is subject to a further Infrastructure South Australia review which may impact estimated project costs.

### What are the benefits of building the nWCH alongside the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH)?

Co-locating the nWCH next to the RAH will give women direct access to adult clinical support, including an intensive care unit. It will also provide access to the RAH's helipad, significantly reducing the risk of transferring maternity, paediatric and neonatal emergencies.

Having both hospitals at the same location will also ensure a smoother transition for young people with long-term conditions from paediatric to adult services, and better person and family centred care facilities and services that enhance the experience for patients and families, including outdoor areas and family resource rooms.

Direct linkage to the RAH and the broader Adelaide BioMed City also provides opportunities to leverage existing infrastructure to support the nWCH in areas like engineering infrastructure, loading dock, corporate and clinical support functions where appropriate.

It is vital that these opportunities are maximised, optimising the investment in clinical care and ensuring value of the nWCH investment to the community of South Australia.

### Are there any opportunities to share existing services and other resources between the nWCH and the RAH?

It has now been determined that the nWCH will share the following services with the RAH:

- Food Services
  - Expressed Breast Milk Room, Special Diet Kitchen and the Formula Room to be located in the nWCH.
  - In relation to the main kitchen, analysis of a range of food service delivery models was undertaken with input from WCHN food service and clinical staff, and confirmed that an on demand/room service model is best practice and should be implemented at the nWCH.
  - The nWCH will have a main kitchen to facilitate the delivery of this food service model.
  - The RAH kitchen will be utilised to provide bulk food supplies to the nWCH.

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- Central Sterilising Department (CSD)
  - Analysis conducted with input from the RAH CSD and WCHN CSD and Surgical Services confirmed the RAH has the capacity and capability to service the nWCH sterilising requirements (Reusable Medical Devices and Endoscopes) in line with Australian Standards and guidelines.
- Back of House (BoH) Services
  - Analysis determined that some BoH Services are able to be delivered from the RAH in a shared, campus-wide model.

Over the coming months, working groups will be established to commence work on the service delivery models for these services. A Frequently Asked Questions document with further information about the interface opportunities is available on our website [www.wch.sa.gov.au/nWCH](http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/nWCH)

### Will the nWCH have a SA Pathology Service?

A Clinical Services Capability Framework Level 6 Pathology Service will be provided to the nWCH, and will include a range of testing services such as:

- Core Laboratory Service
- Central specimen reception area (SRA)
- Biochemistry
- Haematology
- Transfusion Services
- Anatomical Pathology (Autopsy Service)
- Phlebotomy service for both inpatient and outpatients

### Will the nWCH continue to provide gynaecology services?

The State Government has put forward a proposal for all gynaecology services (including surgical component of Pregnancy Advisory Service) within the Central Adelaide area (excluding gynae oncology) to be provided at the nWCH. This is on the basis that a combined service supports best clinical outcomes for women, teaching and training benefits for clinicians.

It is not a forced consolidation, and now requires discussion between WCHN and CALHN, and consultation with clinicians, staff and consumers concerned to enable this to occur.

The nWCH will provide the infrastructure to support this service (i.e. operating theatres, perioperative services, outpatient and inpatient rooms and Women's Assessment Services).

Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN) and Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) staff and consumers will be involved in the design process of these spaces.

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### **Will the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN) and the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) gynaecology services be transferred to the nWCH site?**

The Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN) and the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) gynaecology services will continue to operate within their respective Local Health Networks.

### **Will Helen Mayo House be located on the nWCH site?**

Helen Mayo House will transfer from its current location at Glenside into a purpose-built unit within the nWCH. The number of bed numbers will double from 6-12 beds.

Co-locating Helen Mayo House (which provides perinatal and infant mental health services) with direct access to the RAH adult mental health services will enhance mental health care facilities for women in South Australia.

### **Will the nWCH be an all-electric hospital?**

There will be a strong emphasis on sustainable design and the nWCH will become Australia's first all-electric hospital, helping to avoid an additional 2,178 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year – the equivalent of taking 700 vehicles off the road.

The new, purpose-built hospital will be connected to an electricity source that is either supplied from the grid or through on-site electricity generation and storage, rather than through the State's mains gas network. This means the heating, hot water and kitchen functions within the new building will not be powered by fossil fuels and is in line with the pathway to net zero emissions.

### **Why do we need a new WCH?**

The State Government has identified a number of challenges posed by the existing WCH, including:

- The WCH does not have facility for a women's ICU service and relevant cases need to be transferred to RAH.
- The WCH's infrastructure is ageing, requiring continual and costly repairs.
- There is no helipad at the WCH, which can result in delays for patients as they need to be flown in to the RAH and then transferred by ambulance to WCH.
- Less than optimal logistics flows between areas and departments within the WCH.

To address these challenges, the State Government has committed to construct the nWCH on land directly adjacent to:

- Allow direct access to the RAH's adult clinical support services, including ICU and surgical support.
- Allow access to the RAH's helipad, significantly reducing the time and risks associated with transferring neonatal, maternity and paediatric emergencies.
- Optimise the use and experience of medical staff across both facilities.

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- Ensure a smoother transition for young people with long-term conditions from paediatric to adult medical services.
- Allow for improved care facilities, including outdoor areas and family resource rooms.

### **When will early works commence?**

Early works to prepare the site are expected to start at the end of this year, while construction works are due to start late next year.

### **When will the new hospital be ready?**

Construction is scheduled for completion in late 2026, enabling the hospital to be open for patients from 2027.

### **What will happen to the existing WCH?**

Steps to determine the future of the existing WCH site will be managed by Renewal SA once services have been transferred to the nWCH.

### **Where can I find more information about the new hospital?**

Up-to-date information about our new hospital is available on the WCHN website [wch.sa.gov.au/nWCH](http://wch.sa.gov.au/nWCH)

### **Who can I contact if I have any questions about the new hospital?**

Please send any questions you may have about the new Women's and Children's Hospital Project to [nWCHengagement@sa.gov.au](mailto:nWCHengagement@sa.gov.au)

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