

Our Place | Ahu Taumatua

THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PALMERSTON NORTH REGIONAL HOSPITAL

ISSUE 43 | Jan/Feb 2024

Ahu Taumatua | Our Place brings you all the latest information on the redevelopment projects at Palmerston North Regional Hospital to improve capacity and healthcare in our region. Learn how our mahi is providing interim solutions and services as we work together to achieve our long-term redevelopment goals to benefit the health of the people in our rohe.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Construction of the replacement Acute Mental Health Unit continues to forge ahead.



Final SPIRE construction works are now complete and this project is now in the close-out and review phase. The patient reception area within the theatre suite is in place, and changes to the PACU nurses' station and surrounding area finished.



Planning work continues to advance Project Ka Ora Kainga Rua – the development of Palmerston North Regional Hospital. The pressures on the hospital's capacity while this work is undertaken are well recognised and ways of addressing this is being identified and evaluated.

Whakakatauki

*E mao ana ki ua, e ua ana ki mao
It is fine until it rains, it rains until it is fine.*

This whakakatauki talks about how good times alternate with trouble times, just as sunshine does with rain.

Source: Ngā Pepeha a ngā Tipuna.

ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH UNIT (AMHU)

The construction team were back on site on 8 January and are making good progress; the building site is a hive of activity, with multiple crews working throughout the three stages.

- Building services trades are now being installed into the **main entrance (Stage 1)**, while the interior framing and the installation of the insulation and the ply ceilings is advancing rapidly. On the exterior, the brickwork is being installed and the iron roofing is now in place. Once the flashing and the soffits have been installed, the roof will be complete.
- **Stage 2** is the largest stage which includes bedrooms, two courtyards and the central staff area. Again, work is progressing well with the internal framing and external brickwork underway.
- In **Stage 3** of the project, the weather proof cladding is being fitted, while roofing work continues.



KA ORA KĀINGA RUA – THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PALMERSTON NORTH REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Progress continues across many facets of this project.

- The [clinical services plan](#) (CSP) is a critical piece of work; a CSP is completed for every project of this size. It looks at future demand, population changes, models of care, technology, and what services our communities need, how those services should be provided, by who and from where. The CSP also looks at the number of beds, theatres, outpatient rooms and other points of care which our Hospital will need to meet demand. For quality assurance, our CSP gets reviewed by the national Hospital & Specialist Services (HSS) team at Te Whatu Ora. This ensures consistency with the national direction and approach. This important part of the process is taking longer than expected but is on track for completion by the end of February.
- Alongside this piece of work, an [engineering review](#) of the main hospital building (also known as the Tower Block and Block B), is underway to determine the extent and cost of the work required to enable it to continue to be used in the future.
- We facilitated the international consultancy Jacobs to do an independent [assessment of the functionality](#) of the key patient areas of the Hospital – see November issue for more details. The findings confirmed there is insufficient capacity; a lack of appropriate patient amenities; insufficient isolation rooms; insufficient private areas for confidential patient conversations; and wards which are too small. The hospital's reliance on only one CT scanner was also noted, as was the impact the age of the buildings has on patient flows, and the lack of administration and staff amenities - with many having been converted for clinical use but not replaced.
- A key driver for our hospital development plans is improving Māori health equity and this is an important part of all aspects of the project. Through our Iwi Māori Partnership Board, Te Pae Oranga o Ruahine o Tararua, an [Equity Plan](#) is being developed.
- Given the time it will take to complete the planning, design and construction work, we are looking at how we can [increase capacity](#) and improve patient flow to enable services to manage demand. This work includes a number of initiatives that are already underway, such as the development of two HDU beds within the CCU area, establishing a paediatric area within ED, creating space and developing a business case for a second CT scanner, and a trial of some software that is hoped will reduce the time clinicians need to spend on admin. Consideration is also being given to the future use of Ward 21 and the other options to increase inpatients beds and manage patient flow through ED. Look out for updates on this work in future issues.

SURGICAL PROCEDURAL INTERVENTIONAL RECOVERY EXPANSION (SPIRE)

The much improved surgical and perioperative suite is now in use and the benefits are being enjoyed by staff and patients alike. The last pieces of work were the changes to the Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU) and patient reception area.

The increased number of theatres and procedure rooms is allowing more patients to be treated across many specialities. This is supported by an increase in the areas where patients recover post surgery.

Our new cardiac cath lab, the first provincially based one in the Central Region, is in use and on track to perform the first PCI later this month.

Positive feedback is being received from both patients and staff. Here's what one of the first cath lab patients had to say:

"Pacemaker installed on Monday. I'm not a medical doctor but I am very impressed with your new cath lab. Your team were all very caring and thoughtful, and that's important for a patient about to undergo a rather frightening procedure. Thank you!"



INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

WATER FARM

The third large water tank is now in place, and the fourth is going up. The concrete pads have been laid and work is on track for completion next month.

The following pictures provide a bird's view of the work involved.

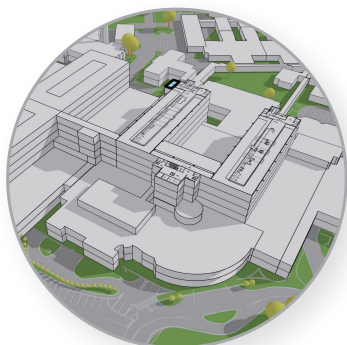


Te Whatu Ora

Health New Zealand

Te Pae Hauora o Ruahine o Tararua
MidCentral

THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PALMERSTON NORTH REGIONAL HOSPITAL



1 SHORT-TERM, TACTICAL STOP-GAP SOLUTIONS

- SPIRE
- MAPU-EDOA unit
- ICU and acute care capacity
- Paediatric area in ED

2 LONG-TERM, STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

- Acute services block
- Reconfiguration of the clinical services block
- Acute mental health unit
- Regional cancer centre

3 INFRA-STRUCTURE WORKS

- Electrical, heating, ventilation
- Three waters
- Medical gases
- Fire systems
- Thermal and emergency generation systems