

Our Place | Ahu Taumatua

THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PALMERSTON NORTH HOSPITAL

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ACHIEVEMENTS

- New fluoroscopy machine installed
- Foundation for the new MAPU/EDOA facility taking shape
- SPIRE construction progressing well



Preparing the foundations for our new MAPU/EDOA Facility



Fluoroscopy machine in place



SPIRE construction continues

WHAKATAUKĪ

*Kua tū te haka a Tānerore
The dancing of Tānerore has begun, summer is here*

Tānerore is the personification of heatwaves dancing in the distance on a hot day.

This proverb can be used to justify relaxing in the shade during the hottest part of the day, putting off any laborious work till later in the evening when it cools down. A great way to avoid getting sun burnt too. Stay cool!

“Our Place” keeps you informed of the strategic projects, interim solutions and the supporting infrastructure work being progressed to ensure Palmerston North Hospital is able to meet current and future demand.

Strategic

- Acute Services Block
- Reconfiguration of Clinical Services Block
- Mental Health Acute Facility
- Regional Cancer Facilities

Interim

- SPIRE Project (Surgical and Peri-operative Capacity)
- ED and Acute Assessment Capacity (ED, EDOA & MAPU)
- ICU and Acute Care Capacity

InfraStructure

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

SPIRE

The demolition work is complete and the new Gastroenterology Department and Day of Surgery and Recovery area is taking shape.

The creation of these areas will reach the half way stage mid-February, with a further four and half months to completion. Work on establishing the two new theatres, the cath lab and a procedure room within the theatre suite will then begin.



The creation of a new Day of Surgery Admissions and Recovery Area is well underway. Much of the work for this project is behind the walls, under the floor and above the ceiling to get the electrical, air conditioning, heating, ventilation, fire and medical gas systems in place.

Critical to the scheduling of the SPIRE construction work was being able to work within the theatre suite over the Christmas/New Year period to upgrade and expand the staff change area and to establish the shell of Procedure Room 4 within the current staff area. It was anticipated that some issues may be discovered behind the walls and above the ceilings given the age of the building and this turned out to be the case. These are being resolved but the additional work has pushed out the completion date for this piece of the project to mid-February.



The new change rooms taking shape.

Dr Alberto Ramirez, Clinical Lead and Chris Simpson, Operations Lead are planning ahead for mid-2022 when the hospital's theatre capacity will be temporarily reduced while new theatres are established. During this time will surgical work to be undertaken in other areas, including the new procedure rooms in the Gastroenterology Department, the fluoroscopy service, and at Crest Hospital. Alberto and Chris have the complex job of working out which surgeon will be operating where, ensuring all specialties get the theatre time they require, and the resources are in place to support them.

Facility for Medical Assessment & Planning Unit and ED Observation Area



Critical to every building is a sound foundation and the foundation for the new MAPU/EDOA facility is now being established. It is not a simple job with a lot of work to be done in digging and excavating the site, establishing the concrete bed (base), and then establishing foundation walls and beams before the ground floor concrete slab is poured. The floor slab will be poured in three sections and if all goes to plan the pouring of the floor will start in April.

As part of the foundation work, a water pipe and fibre optic cable have been re-routed away from the area.

Accessibility parking is soon to be even more accessible with 12 mobility parks being created immediately in front of the hospital's main entrance.

The parks replace those previously located in Car Park C. Those had to be closed to make way for our new MAPU/EDOA facility.

Once the newly constructed mobility parks are open, the taxi and shuttles will return to their usual parking spaces adjacent to the front entrance. They were temporarily relocated to provide interim mobility parks.



Pathway photo

The MAPU/EDOA construction site has created changes to not only parking but also pedestrian access to the hospital from Car Park C and the southern end of the campus. Temporary signage and walkways are in place. Some adjustments have been made to these following feedback.

Access to car park C is now via Gate 12.

There is a new pathway from Carpark C out onto Ruahine Street. This will be in place for the duration of the project and will then connect onto the pathways planned as part of the new facility.

In preparation for occupying the new facility, work is underway to get the equipment on site and systems ready. Med dispense machines and patient monitors have been ordered as well as the digital switches required for the communications cabinet. This cabinet will house all equipment for providing the necessary voice and data communication networks to the new facility.

The names for patient beds/chairs within the new facility are now agreed so these can be loaded into WebPAS in readiness. It has also been agreed which telephone extension numbers will transfer to the new facility which will be completed toward the end of the year.

ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

The next phase of this project was launched in December with stakeholder workshops. These continued in January as the team works to take the Preliminary Design to a Developed Design

During the Developed Design phase, the detail of each room and space is worked up and schedules of accommodation created. Similarly, the infrastructure arrangements are further defined, eg plan, fire egress, data cabling, air ducts, switchboards and plumbing.

Work also begins to create the documentation required to support the building consent and the resource consent processes.

The design has been released via GETS seeking offers of service from firms interested in being the main construction contractor.

FLUOROSCOPY

The new fluoroscopy machine is in place about to undergo final testing. The machine arrived in 12 large packages in mid-January, weighing 5,320,000 kgs, and took two weeks to install.

It has been a long journey for the Medical Imaging team and they are looking forward to completing training on the new machine which will become fully operational later this month. In addition to installing the machine, the room in which it was housed was completely gutted and new air conditioning installed, and electrical systems upgraded.

Palmerston North Hospital has been without a fluoroscopy machine since January 2020 when the previous unit was decommissioned. Jodi Larkin, Medical Imaging Co-ordinator has been using Wairarapa Hospital's unit since that time for patients requiring a swallowing fluoroscopy. She and the Medical Imaging team are very excited that the Department will now once again be offering a full fluoroscopy service.



*Fluoroscopy project timeline in pictures:
Former machine, fluoroscopy room cleared, room's air conditioning and electrical systems upgraded, new machine being installed, new machine.*



BEHIND THE SCENES

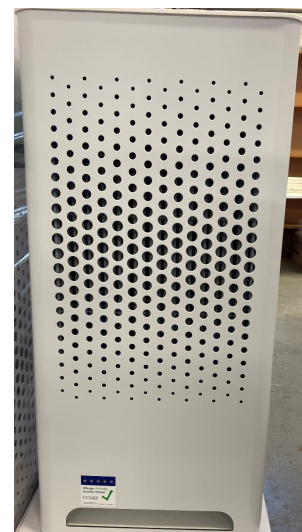
COVID and Air Purification Systems

The first delivery of air purification systems which form one part of MDHB's strategy to minimize the impact of a COVID infectious person entering our facilities. These air purification units cleanse the air and remove aerosols which can carry the COVID-19 and other airborne viruses.

One hundred and fifty-six portable air purification units (or "scrubbers" as they are known) will be rolled out into selected in single rooms in clinical areas and community facing clinics. More are on the way, including 74 larger units. Specialist air purifier units have ordered for the dental area. Late last year, 80 scrubbers were provided through the Ministry of Health and these are already in use.

The size and type of patient location determines the type of air purification unit selected. Space constraints and noise are also a factor considered.

Other engineering solutions implemented as part of MDHB's COVID strategy are increased air flow and HEPA filtration air removal systems in high risk areas, including Ward 24 (COVID ward), theatre, ICU, ED and negative pressure rooms.



Part of the latest consignment of scrubbers; portable scrubber.

Oxygen Project

The next stage of this project which will increase oxygen storage and distribution, is about to commence.

A new 10 million litre oxygen tank is to be installed, and work on laying the foundation and installing high pressure oxygen lines is to begin. This project is sponsored and funded by the Ministry of Health and involves local construction firms, Colspec, and Air Dynamics.



The foundation will be built to Importance Level 4 standards so oxygen will be available should a major seismic event take place.

Another stage of this project was increasing oxygen supply to Ward 24 and this was completed in December 2021. ICU will be completed early February.

Oxygen project stage 2 commences.

Questions, feedback, thoughts – send them to ourplace@midcentraldhb.govt.nz