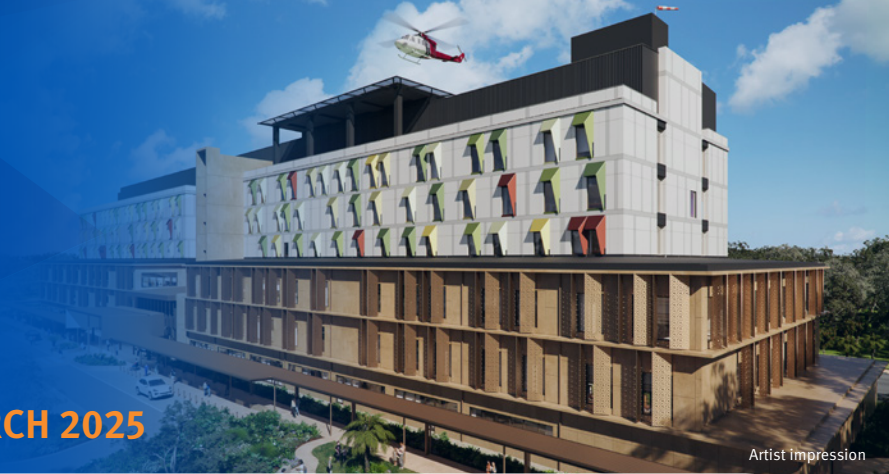


New Bundaberg Hospital

PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE | MARCH 2025



Artist impression

Making emergency department visits less scary for kids

The new Bundaberg Hospital's emergency department (ED) design is set to create a special space for kids, with the inclusion of a dedicated children's waiting and treatment zone.

Upon presenting to the new ED, children will be assessed by a nurse at a central triage point before being promptly moved through to a dedicated children's area.

ED Staff Specialist at Bundaberg Hospital, Dr Bellice Olima, said the new area would provide a calm, comfortable and reassuring environment for young patients and their families.

"EDs can often be highly stimulating, unpredictable, confusing and busy environments, that are full of unfamiliar people and unusual sights and sounds," Dr Olima said.

"Having a paediatric area that is separated acoustically and visibly from the general waiting and treatment areas, but still observable by staff, will help to alleviate some of the worry and stress our younger patients and their families may feel.

"We're also looking to create positive distraction by using bright and welcoming colours and having play facilities available while our unwell children are waiting to receive their quality tailored care."

Bundaberg mother Rebecca Halstead welcomed news that the new hospital's ED had been designed

to cater for the unique physical, emotional and psychosocial needs of children and adolescents.

"Young kids are quite sensory, so having access to a dedicated quiet environment is developmentally more appropriate and will help to minimise distress for young people and their families," Rebecca said.

"During emergencies, parents and carers are also generally not packing a bag, so access to toys, televisions with child-friendly programs and a beverage bay will help to improve the patient and family experience.

"Having more paediatric trained emergency staff within this dedicated area will also strengthen connections between the ED, the new hospital's children's ward and Children's Health Queensland, which is particularly important for children with complex needs that often present to the hospital."



Dr Bellice Olima welcomes plans to create a dedicated paediatric area in new hospital's ED.

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Each newsletter, we'll be shining a light on a key feature of your new hospital.

Bundaberg Hospital celebrates first water birth, paving way for expanded services in new hospital

Bundaberg Hospital's maternity unit recently celebrated a heartwarming milestone, where the cries of new life echoed amidst the soothing sound of water from a new inflatable birth pool.

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive Debbie Carroll said the arrival of the inflatable birth pool marked an exciting step forward in maternity services and laid the groundwork for the expanded care that will be offered in the new Bundaberg Hospital.

"Warm water immersion during labour is widely recognised for offering comfort, natural pain relief, and relaxation, helping to create a calm, comfortable and supportive environment," Debbie said.

"During planning for our new Bundaberg Hospital, many expectant mothers and families also told us that having access to water births as an option would be of invaluable support.

"The new hospital will feature two specially designed birthing rooms equipped with permanent baths for warm water immersion and births, offering an additional, soothing option for labouring patients.

"We're really proud to have responded directly to the needs and preferences of families, ensuring they will have more choices in the new hospital and a positive birthing experience.

"We're also thrilled that we've been able to introduce a new inflatable birth pool in the meantime to train our staff in water birth techniques ahead of our big move to the new hospital site."



Scan this QR code to read the full story

Celebrating connection and culture

Late last year, we hosted a special gathering for our First Nations community, where stories were shared, connections were made, and invaluable insights were collected to help shape the cultural aspects of the new hospital design.

The yarning session focused on ensuring that the new hospital will be a space that is culturally safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all. Through these meaningful conversations, we explored ways to integrate storytelling, cultural elements, plant selections, and colour palettes that reflect the rich heritage and traditions of the local First Nations peoples.

In addition to this gathering, we also conducted a survey for the broader community to share their thoughts and ideas.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and generously shared their knowledge and wisdom. Your voices are essential in shaping a hospital that will not only heal but also honour and celebrate our local culture.



Scan this QR code to read the full First Nations survey report

Healing through art integration

Late last year, we invited locals – including patients, staff, artists, volunteers, and community members – to share their thoughts on how art could be incorporated into the new hospital.

Over 170 people participated in our survey, providing valuable feedback that highlighted key themes.

Celebrating the region’s history, stories, and people, enhancing patient wellbeing, involving local artists, and ensuring accessibility of art were all identified as top priorities.

Building on this survey feedback, we also held an in-person workshop with clinicians, consumers, and community members. This session allowed us to refine the ideas from the survey and collaboratively develop a vision for integrating art into the new hospital in ways that are both meaningful and therapeutic.

By engaging both clinicians and consumers, the workshop ensured that the art will reflect the emotional, cultural, and functional needs of the new hospital. Clinicians shared insights into the therapeutic impact of art, while consumers provided valuable input on cultural relevance and personal connections to the art.

This combined input is guiding our project team as we craft an ‘Arts in Health’ curatorial strategy, ensuring that the art featured in the new hospital reflects the values, culture, and vibrant spirit of our community.



Scan this QR code to read the full Arts in Health survey report



Enhancing navigation with colour-coded levels



One of our top priorities is making sure that everyone – whether you’re a patient, visitor, or staff member – can easily find their way around the new Bundaberg Hospital.

In response to feedback from local staff, patients, and the community, the design includes a colour-

coded system to help navigate the hospital more easily. This will provide a simple and intuitive way for everyone to know which level they’re on as they move through the new six-storey building.

Each floor will feature a unique colour displayed prominently in the lift lobbies. This clear visual cue will help orient people the moment they step out of the lift.

In addition, doors throughout the hospital will be colour-coded to help patients easily identify which areas they can access, such as toilets, ensuites, and beverage bays. This added detail ensures that patients can quickly locate essential spaces, improving comfort and reducing stress.

This colour-coded system is just one of the many ways we’re working to make the hospital more accessible and easier to navigate, based on feedback from our local community.

Read more about the local team behind the build



Brian Colahan
Biomedical
Technology
Services



Samantha Hoole
Clinical Nurse
Consultant



Rebecca Raftery
Senior Clinical
Pharmacist

Building skills for the future: new Bundaberg Hospital project welcomes first trainees



The new Bundaberg Hospital project has reached an exciting milestone, with CPB Contractors signing up its first three trainees and marking a significant step forward in creating a local skills legacy. The three trainees – Casey Pullen, Reece McDowell, and Maddison Haack – are all local residents from Bundaberg and nearby Childers.

Employed by G&H Civil as labourers and plant operators, each trainee has enrolled in a Certificate III in Plant Operations. With guidance from trainer Zac Peacock (Current Training) and Supervisor Matt Wells (G&H Civil), the trainees are gaining hands-on experience while contributing to one of the region's most significant infrastructure projects.

Bundaberg local Reece highlighted the impact of being able to work on a project in his hometown.

“It’s an incredible opportunity to work on country and be part of a major project in my hometown while developing my skills,” Reece said.

As a qualified boilermaker from Childers, Maddison has embraced the opportunity for a career change.

“This traineeship is allowing me to further my education, learn new skills, and be at home with my partner every night after years of working away,” Maddison said.

The milestone supports CPB Contractors’ recently launched Skills Legacy Group in the region, an initiative designed to foster collaboration among training organisations, education institutes, and employment providers. The group aims to ensure long-term benefits for the local workforce, creating opportunities for residents to build rewarding careers in construction.

For more information about the project and to sign up to get the latest news, announcements and project updates delivered straight to your inbox, visit:

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Wide Bay
Hospital and
Health Service

