



Issue 10 – 30 September 2016

Update

Veterans' Mental Health Precinct

This bulletin provides an update on the work undertaken by the five work groups reporting directly to the Oversight Panel for the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct. The workgroups include: Model of Care, Research Partnerships, Memorialisation, Partnerships and Building Design. Membership of the groups consists of clinicians, Veterans, ex-service organisations and representatives from organisations like Veterans SA and committees such as the Veterans Health Advisory Council (VHAC) and Veterans Advisory Council (VAC).

Building Design

Tenders have now closed for the construction of the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct and work has commenced to assess the tenders. It is anticipated that a preferred tender will be determined shortly and once the approval process has been completed, an announcement will be made regarding the awarding of the contract.

Memorialisation

The Memorialisation Work Group has provided a final report with its recommendations to the Oversight Panel, which was tabled on 7 September 2016. This report covers the memorialisation of the non-clinical space for the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct, including the building and garden areas, as well as advice on the naming of the precinct and associated areas.

The report was accepted by the panel and the naming advice will now be provided to the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse. It is anticipated that an announcement will be made in the coming weeks regarding the naming of the precinct.

Partnerships

The Partnerships Work Group also presented its advice to the Oversight Panel at the September meeting through the provision of a detailed report.

The establishment of a Partnerships Hub at the new site will enable a single point of contact for Veterans and their families to access vital services provided by ex-service organisations (ESOs) through a collaborative model. The report presented to the panel identifies the best ways to provide an accessible and coordinated service, which will be an Australian first once opened at the new precinct. An interim committee will be formed in 2017 prior to the opening of the hub in late 2017.

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Model of Care

The Model of Care Work Group has made significant progress in detailing the elements of care required within the new model.

Drawing on national and international best practice the document will ensure that the approach to providing health care will be flexible to meet the changing needs of our Veteran community. Further work is still required and the work group will meet again in October to reach agreement on the final model before presenting this to the Oversight Panel and then the Ministerial Clinical Advisory Group (MCAG).

Research Partnerships

The Research Partnerships Work Group has been considering ways to establish a research entity at the precinct that will maximise the potential for further collaboration in Veterans' research across South Australia. The group is currently drafting the Terms of Reference and exploring a potential governance structure. It is envisaged that a report will be made available to the Oversight Panel within the next month.

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