

Issue 9 – 26 July 2016

Update

Veterans Mental Health Precinct at Glenside Health Campus

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 - Veterans' Mental Health Facility

Public Works Committee has approved the concept plans for the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct. The Oversight Panel acknowledges the hard work and commitment of the Building Design Work Group in identifying and considering the views of the veteran community, staff and local residents. The Group was successful in overseeing the delivery of an outstanding concept design for the new Precinct, supported by a robust and broad consultative process. Detailed work is now being undertaken by Greenway Architects to prepare the full specification of the Precinct for tender. SA Health's infrastructure team will lead the tender process and it is expected that construction will commence in late 2016.

Memorialisation

The Memorialisation Work Group is now close to finalising its advice to the Oversight Panel. Consultation with the Veteran community was undertaken by the Veterans Advisory Committee regarding a potential name for the Precinct and areas within. Consultation closed on 1 July 2016 and the Memorialisation Workgroup is expected to make its recommendation to the Oversight Panel in early August 2016. A final decision on the name or names will be made by the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

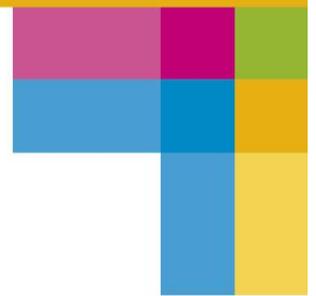
The group has worked closely with Greenway Architects regarding the memorialisation of the site including certain aspects of the building. Existing memorabilia at the RGH that meets criteria developed by the workgroup as a result of the workshop held in February will be transferred to the new facility. The work group has also provided advice regarding the design and establishment of the commemorative garden.

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Partnerships

The Partnerships Work Group has recently finalised their advice to Greenway Architects regarding the interior fit out of the Heritage Building (the Hub) to accommodate those Ex Service Organisations (ESO) that have expressed an interest in having a presence at the Hub. With this significant piece of work now complete the group is concentrating on its future role in providing advice and services to Veterans and their families from the hub. This includes how the work of the ESO's might interface with other services available within the Precinct and more broadly across the site. The group will provide recommendations to the Oversight Panel relating to the role of the hub and the potential governance structure of the ESOs who will be using the facility.

Model of Care

The Model of Care Work Group is continuing to explore the key activities that influence the Model of Care for Veterans Mental Health. A substantial amount of work is focussing on the current services delivered within Ward 17 and the outpatient clinics and how best to provide these services once the new facility is opened.

The development of the new facility provides an ideal opportunity to further strengthen and enhance the high level of mental health care provided to Veterans by improving and strengthening partnerships both within the health system and via external stakeholders. Research into national and international care for Veterans with a mental health diagnosis is also being undertaken so that elements of best practice can be considered and where appropriate, incorporated. Improved clinical care pathways will facilitate early detection and intervention of mental illness for Veterans. The work group is working towards having the first draft of the Model of Care completed in the coming weeks.

Research Partnerships

The Research Partnerships Work Group has held two meetings since the last update. Members of the work group viewed the space allocated for research, explored two potential models for the research hub as well as considered building a brand of research and clinical partnerships across the key stakeholder groups. The next meeting will focus on how the space allocated can adapt to changing research and treatment needs.

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