

## Frequently Asked Questions

# Veterans' Mental Health Precinct

Under Transforming Health, all services currently received by Veterans and the community, including all clinical services currently provided at the Repatriation General Hospital, will continue at different locations across our metropolitan hospitals.

Veterans' mental health services will be provided from a new \$15 million precinct, named The Jamie Larcombe Centre, located at Glenside Health Service Campus.

### **Who has been involved in the planning of the new precinct?**

A governance structure, consisting of an oversight panel and five workgroups, was established to progress planning for the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct. The workgroups include: model of care, research, partnerships, memorialisation and building design.

Membership of the groups included clinicians, Veterans, ex-service organisations and representatives from organisations such as Veterans SA and committees such as the Veterans Health Advisory Council (VHAC) and Veterans Advisory Council (VAC).

### **What will the new precinct be called?**

The new Veterans' Mental Health Precinct will be named The Jamie Larcombe Centre.

The precinct is named after Sapper Jamie Ronald Larcombe, who was born in Kingscote, Kangaroo Island and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010. The name is a tribute to the service and sacrifice of Sapper Larcombe, who was killed in action on 19 February 2011.

During a consultation period led by the Veterans' Advisory Council, a number of proposed names were identified. The names were considered against a set of criteria that was developed by the Memorialisation Workgroup. Veterans also had the opportunity to suggest additional names.

'The Jamie Larcombe Centre' refers to the precinct as a whole. The individual areas within the facility will be known by their functional names: Inpatient Ward, Outpatient Ward, Memorial Garden, and Hub.



## Who was involved in designing the new facility?

The Building Design Workgroup, including clinicians from Ward 17 at Repatriation General Hospital, Veterans' representatives and consumers, worked with Greenway Architects to ensure that all of the critical components necessary for Veterans' mental health care are integrated into the concept plans, incorporating a substantial new building and the existing Intermediate Care Centre. A copy of the draft concept plans were released for four weeks of consultation earlier this year and the feedback has been considered in finalising the concept plans.

## How have Veterans been consulted as part of the relocation to Glenside?

Veterans have been a part of the oversight panel and working groups to progress planning for the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct. They have provided valuable input into issues such as building design, memorialisation and the development of partnerships with organisations that have an interest in Veterans' health care to ensure Glenside can become a hub for Veterans and their families.

## What services will the new facility provide?

The Veterans' Mental Health Precinct will provide a full acute inpatient mental health facility and outpatient services that includes the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Unit governed by the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network. The precinct will provide a person-centred approach to the provision of care, and each consumer will receive individual assessments of their needs and care will be provided accordingly. Access to other health services to address the physical co-morbidity needs of Veterans will also be available through in reach and outreach services as clinically appropriate for consumers within the Veterans' Mental Health Service. The acute inpatient unit will be operational 24/7.

## What are the features of the new facility?

The new facility will be spacious, including 24 individual rooms with ensuite bathrooms.

It will include a gymnasium, group rooms and more privacy for Veterans and their families, with shared spaces for those Veterans who wish to connect with others in the facility.

There will be gardens, areas for reflection and more areas for Veterans to spend time with their families, including a children's playground.

It will facilitate improved observation of clinical areas for staff and has the ability to provide designated inpatient areas for vulnerable groups. For example, female Veterans who are receiving care can be accommodated in private spaces within the facility.

The new facility will also include research spaces, integrating clinical care with research and teaching to enhance research into Veterans mental health care in South Australia.

## What are the differences between this new facility and the current Ward 17?

Ward 17 is an outdated facility which has shared rooms and bathrooms. The new facility will be more spacious, offering individual rooms and ensuite bathrooms.

Ward 17 has one garden area and few shared spaces or private areas for Veterans to reflect or be visited by family and friends. At the new precinct there will be several rooms, spaces and gardens for families to meet.

The design of Ward 17 makes it difficult for observation of clinical areas by staff and this critical design requirement has been taken into account when designing the new facility.

Ward 17 does not have its own gymnasium and has limited recreational spaces. The new facility will have a gymnasium and games room.

The new facility will provide dedicated space for the research hub.

The design of the precinct enables consumers, visitors and staff to walk within the facility without disrupting consumers in their single rooms.



## **What else will be developed on the site of the new facility?**

The Veterans' Mental Health Precinct will be an area of 1.3 hectares, including a Partnerships Hub for ex-service organisations and other partners who have an interest in Veterans' health care. A heritage-listed building on the northern side of the precinct will form The Hub, a 'one stop shop' where Veterans, emergency services personnel who are experiencing PTSD and their families can access information and services to support their individual needs. A playground will be developed within the precinct to provide entertainment for children who are visiting their family members.

There will also be car parking for patients and visitors.

The precinct will have a separate access point to the main Glenside campus to provide a distinct area for Veterans.

## **Of the 24 beds, how many will be dedicated to female consumers?**

The facility is designed to be flexible to accommodate the changing needs of Veterans. Access to sections of the unit are able to be restricted to accommodate different cohorts of Veterans (such as female Veterans) in a more private setting, however the configuration of beds is flexible enough to increase or decrease the number of restricted access beds depending on the demographic of patients on the ward at any given time.

## **Will there be access to a hydrotherapy pool at the new precinct?**

While there is no hydrotherapy pool on the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct site, access to a hydrotherapy pool has been referred to the Model of Care Workgroup to investigate options to partner with other organisations and facilities, such as a rehabilitation centre or physiotherapy clinic with access to pool facilities.

## **How will people access the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct?**

Options for a separate access road linking directly to The Jamie Lacombe Centre via Eucalyptus Road are being explored whilst Amber Woods Drive is closed during construction of the Renewal SA development. The precinct can also be accessed via the main entrance to Glenside Health Service Campus on Fullarton Road.

## **How will visitors access the inpatient facility?**

There will be a visitor entrance adjacent to the main carpark, with open and inviting design features to identify the main entrance as the first point of entry for visitors to the site. The inpatient ward will also have a separate entrance to ensure that direct access to inpatients is possible, minimising disruption and maximising privacy of both the inpatient and outpatient wards.

## **Will there be after-hours access to the facility?**

Yes, the acute inpatient mental health facility will operate 24 hours a day, under the governance of Southern Adelaide Local Health Network.

## **How is security of the inpatient facility going to be maintained?**

Access to the facility will be limited to a few entry points only which will require swipe card access to enter and exit. General access will be through the main entrance or the separate inpatient ward entrance, both of which will have staffed reception desks to welcome visitors. Some fencing will be employed to reduce thoroughfare of areas that do not lead directly from the car parks to the entrances.

The design of the inpatient facility ensures that any patient movements can be observed by staff who will manage the movement of patients within the facility.

## **How many car parks will be available?**

There will be approximately 60 dedicated car parks for the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct with additional parking behind the existing Intermediate Care Centre.



## Will there be public transport access?

Current bus services run along Glen Osmond Road and Greenhill Road. The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure may explore options for expansion of bus services as part of the greater Glenside redevelopment.

## Are there any plans to build on the East-West access road at Glenside?

No, there are no plans to build on this road as part of the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct development.

## Are the established trees at the site going to be maintained?

Many of the established trees will be maintained however some need to be removed. A new planting program will also be incorporated into the precinct. Consideration will also be given to how planting can act as a natural screen between the precinct and the residents in some areas.

## How will plans to develop on the Glenside site impact on the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct?

There are plans to develop residential properties at Glenside, including on the north and north-western side of the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct, however these will be limited to two-storey dwellings adjacent to Veterans' Mental Health Precinct. Discussions are occurring with the architects to ensure the privacy and needs of Veterans within the precinct are respected. It is not expected that there will be any disruptions to the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct resulting from these plans.

## How will privacy be maintained from the proposed adjacent Renewal SA development?

One benefit of the site is its location within Glenside – tucked neatly into the south east corner, it will only have minimal contact points with the Renewal SA development. The design of the precinct includes design features that demarcate the precinct as being a separate service and not public space. Additional design features may be considered once the final design of the Renewal SA development is known. In addition, a large proportion of the private garden and outdoor space of the site is tucked away behind the building, in an area that would be difficult for the public to access.

## When will development of the new facility begin and when will it be complete?

Building works will commence in November 2016. The new facility is expected to be completed in late 2017.

## Is the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct funded by the State Government?

Yes, the \$15 million development is funded by the State Government.

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## For more information

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