

Frequently Asked Questions

Repatriation General Hospital

The Repatriation General Hospital (Repat) was established to care for Veterans after the World War II. It provides high-quality services but many of the current facilities are outdated and cannot provide the spaces, equipment and layout needed for modern medical treatments.

Will the services at the Repatriation General Hospital be closing?

All services currently received by Veterans and the community, including all clinical and rehabilitation services currently provided at the Repat, will continue at different locations across metropolitan hospitals.

Where will services be relocated to other sites and when will these moves occur?

No services will move without consultation and clinical involvement in the decision making.

Repatriation General Hospital services will not be relocated until sufficient capacity and space has been created at other sites.

- > Rehabilitation services will be transferred to a new state-of-the-art development at Flinders Medical Centre with 55 rehabilitation beds, new gyms, robotic equipment and a hydrotherapy pool.
- > Veterans' mental health services will be provided at a new Veterans' Mental Health Precinct to be built at Glenside Health Service Campus.
- > Southern Adelaide Palliative Services will relocate to Level 5 of the new rehabilitation building at Flinders Medical Centre. Older persons' mental health services will be moved to a new 30 bed unit at Flinders Medical Centre.
- > Acute clinical and surgical services will be located at other local sites.
- > Acute outpatients' services will be aligned where inpatient services are located.

Why can't we just re-build or re-fit the Repatriation General Hospital?

Rebuilding or refitting the Repat was considered but given the age and condition of many buildings at the Repat, it is not practical to rebuild or refit at the current site. Veterans deserve services in modern, state-of-the-art facilities.



Is the Repatriation General Hospital mainly used by Veterans?

Many of our Veterans do not live near the Repatriation General Hospital and Veterans' health care needs have changed since 1942, when the Repat was built to care for Veterans after the Second World War.

Our younger Veterans, who served in recent conflicts such as Afghanistan or Iraq, have vastly different preferences and needs than our older Veterans, and this is evident in their treatment choices.

Just 19% of Department for Veterans Affairs (DVA) White and Gold Card holders, who are admitted as inpatients across South Australia's public hospitals, attend the Repat.

Of the total inpatient admissions at the Repat, just 8% are from the Veteran population.

How will the State Government ensure the health and wellbeing of Veterans is looked after into the future?

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Veterans and the Veteran community, a new *Framework for Veterans' Health Care 2016-2020* has been developed to set the strategic direction for the provision of veterans' health care in South Australia.

This follows a review of the previous Framework and Veterans Service Guarantee by the Veterans' Health Advisory Council. The review included consultation with veterans, ex-service organisations, health services and other government agencies.

The new Framework aims to improve the quality of care for veterans through identifying the changing health care needs of veterans and encouraging collaboration between all the partners involved in the provision of veterans' health care. The Veterans' Health Advisory Council will oversee the implementation of the Framework.

Existing patients from the Veteran community will continue to access the best services and care, regardless of where they live, their age or their health care needs.

What is planned for the Repat site?

The ACH Group led Open Daws consortium has been selected as the preferred proponent for the future use of the Repatriation General hospital site, following the withdrawal of the RSL consortium's offer to purchase and develop the site.

In addition to the ACH Group, the *Open Daws* consortium includes Adelaide Community Healthcare Alliance, Healthscope, Anglicare, Flinders University and RDNS.

The *Open Daws* submission proposes to develop an integrated health and housing precinct with a focus on ageing and teaching. *Open Daws* will invest \$200 million into the redevelopment of the site over five years and will be completed in 2022.



Open Daws concept image

The ACH Group *Open Daws* submission has a strong community focus to best meet our requirements for the site through providing:

- > health and aged care services including transition care and day hospital services
- > rehabilitation services such as rehabilitation ambulatory care and inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation
- > facilities for education and training as well as an innovation hub
- > residential accommodation for differing community groups.

The Repat Chapel, SPF Hall and Remembrance Garden will be enhanced and upgraded. The ACH Group will ensure the SPF Hall and Chapel buildings are appropriate for use by site occupants and the public.

The Open Daws master plan also incorporates additional services including allied health services, residential aged care, affordable housing, medical imaging pathology and pharmacy services.

RSL SA and the ACH Group will continue to work together to ensure a continued significant Veterans' presence on the site.

The Veteran community will be continuously consulted throughout the development of Open Daws.

Has the community been consulted on the future use of the Repatriation General Hospital site?

The State Government is committed to ensuring the Repat site continues to be used for health, aged care or community-related purposes.

The community had an opportunity to provide feedback on what is important to them in planning for the future of the site during a three-week consultation period in July 2015.

The feedback was included in the formal Expression of Interest process, which was open in December 2015.

What will happen to Ward 17?

In August 2015, an Expert Advisory Panel recommended Glenside Health Service Campus as the site for a new \$15 million Veterans' Mental Health Precinct.

The excellent service currently provided at the Repatriation General Hospital's Ward 17 is housed in buildings that are unsuitable for a leading service.



Veterans' Mental Health Precinct concept image

The Veterans' Mental Health Precinct, to be named The Jamie Larcombe Centre, will be purpose built, incorporating the existing Intermediate Care Centre (ICC) building, and will include:

- > an ambulatory service incorporating outpatient treatment and a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) service
- > 24 single rooms with ensuites
- > outpatient rooms
- > a gymnasium
- > research spaces
- > gardens
- > a children's playground for families.

The precinct will also include a Partnerships Hub, located in the heritage building adjacent to the new facility. The Hub will be a 'one stop shop'; a place where Veterans, emergency services personnel who are experiencing PTSD, and their families can access information and services to support their individual needs.

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

A Veterans' consultative process was established to ensure the new centre meets the needs of Veterans. The Chair of The Repat Foundation, Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus CSC, together with the Transforming Health Clinical Ambassador, Professor Dorothy Keefe, led a panel of experienced Veterans' representatives and clinical experts who recommend Glenside Health Services Campus as the best location for mental health services for Veterans.

A significant consideration of the panel in the development of the model of care for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was the need to replicate the same quality, access and excellence in patient-centred care as is currently provided at the Repat. Glenside Health Services Campus presents the opportunity to develop a purpose-built, multi-use facility that could be a dedicated Veterans' health services hub. Potential partnerships will be explored with Federal and Non-Government Organisations to develop a 'one stop shop' for Veterans.

What will happen to Daw House Hospice?

Southern Adelaide Palliative Services will relocate to Level 5 of the new rehabilitation building at Flinders Medical Centre.

A Clinical Working Party, chaired by Chief Medical Officer Professor Paddy Phillips, including representatives from palliative care services, consumers, universities, non-government organisations and clinicians, confirmed the model of care and provided recommendations on the re-location of services within the Southern region.

Most clinical services currently provided at the Repatriation General Hospital will be relocated to other sites across metropolitan Adelaide, including acute medical, surgical and rehabilitation services. This means that palliative care services currently provided at Daw House Hospice would not have been able to meet the clinical standards required if it was to remain as a stand-alone unit on the site.

Southern Adelaide Palliative Services has provided exceptional care to the community for many years but the Daw House facility is now outdated and a new, state-of-the-art facility is needed to provide patients with the care they need.

Flinders Medical Centre has been chosen as the most suitable site as it offers co-location with acute services.

The palliative care service will be located on the fifth storey of the new 55-bed rehabilitation building at Flinders Medical Centre. It will offer access to shared spaces and a large rooftop garden.

The new facility will have 15 single rooms, all with individual bathrooms, providing greater privacy for patients and their families and a better working environment for clinicians.



Why are rehabilitation services being moved?

Best practice tells us that rehabilitation needs to start as soon as the patient is ready. Stand-alone rehabilitation facilities cannot provide the medical specialty care required to manage a patient's medical condition. This means delayed treatment, increased transfers between sites and delays in patients returning home can also result in poorer recovery for patients.

Co-located rehabilitation and acute medical services satisfies the important Clinical Standards identified through the Transforming Health process and means care can start as early as possible. Patients will continue to access hydrotherapy and rehabilitation services in brand new facilities at other metropolitan hospitals when they are transitioned from the Repat. The needs of patients will be considered in planning for any service moves.

What will happen to the heritage-listed buildings on site?

All of the Repatriation General Hospital's heritage-listed buildings will remain protected regardless of the custodian. The ACH Group *Open Daws Consortium* is aware of the heritage status of the buildings.

The Repat Chapel, SPF Hall and Remembrance Garden will be enhanced and upgraded.

Orthotics and Prosthetics SA, the ViTA facility and the Flinders University Health Services Building will continue on site.

Is the Repatriation General Hospital closing because it underperforms or does not provide high-quality health care?

The dedicated health professionals at the Repatriation General Hospital work hard to provide patients with the best care possible. However, the infrastructure at the Repat site is outdated and struggles to meet best-practice, modern medical standards.

Will patients be disadvantaged by going to other locations for their care?

The high-quality care patients receive at the Repatriation General Hospital will continue to be provided at other locations.

Transforming Health is about delivering consistent, safe, quality care every time. The metropolitan hospital system needs to work differently to deliver this, with services grouped together differently, specialty resources located together and specialty teams grouped together. This will ensure that patients can be seen by the right people in the right place at the right time.



Flinders Medical Centre Older Persons' Mental Health Service concept image



New Palliative Care Service at Flinders Medical Centre concept image



Won't the State Government be in breach of an agreement with the Federal Government that guaranteed the Repatriation General Hospital would remain on site?

Ownership of the Repat site was transferred to the South Australian Government by the Federal Government in 1995.

At the same time as the transfer, a ten-year agreement was signed between the two governments for the treatment, care and welfare of Department for Veterans Affairs (DVA)-eligible persons at the Repat and at all of South Australia's public hospitals.

The agreement stipulated that the State own and operate the Repatriation General Hospital for at least five years. The 1995 agreement expired on 30 June, 2005.

The Record of Commitments to Veterans and War Widows is a public document that accompanied the formal transfer of ownership documentation and the formal agreement in 1995.

Is there any room at Flinders Medical Centre to accommodate the Repatriation General Hospital's services and staff?

Flinders Medical Centre will undergo a significant upgrade to accommodate many of the services and staff from the Repatriation General Hospital. More than \$185.5 million is being invested in a new multi-storey car park, a new rehabilitation centre with a new gym and hydrotherapy pool, a dedicated orthogeriatric service and a new Older Persons' Mental Health Service in Flinders Medical Centre.

Will parking be available at Flinders Medical Centre?

Part of the Transforming Health investment at Flinders Medical Centre includes a new multi-storey car park with 1780 spaces to make it easier to visit friends and family.

When will the changes occur?

The changes will not occur immediately. Handover of the site to the ACH Group is currently estimated to occur in late 2017.

A number of initiatives have started in our hospitals to unlock capacity to deliver more services to more people. Importantly, no changes to services will be made until the required capacity is created within our hospitals and new infrastructure to accommodate services is complete.

For more information

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