

Frequently Asked Questions

New Women's and Children's Hospital

The South Australian Government has committed \$550 million to continue the planning work for a new Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH).

Our new world-class facility will give South Australian families access to the most advanced hospital care, technology and medical research for many years to come.

The next stage of planning for the hospital will involve strong engagement with our staff, clinicians, consumers, community members, unions and key stakeholders.

What will the \$550 million be used for?

The South Australian Government has committed \$550 million to continue the planning for a new WCH.

This important commitment will enable the planning for our new hospital to enter the next stage, and is in addition to the Government's \$50 million investment to upgrade our existing site.

What are the benefits of building a new WCH alongside the Royal Adelaide Hospital?

Building next to the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) provides a location right in the heart of one of the largest life science precincts in the southern hemisphere. It will provide valuable linkages between health, research, education, training, teaching, clinical care and business developments.

Co-locating the new WCH next to the RAH will give babies, children and women direct access to an adult intensive care unit and to the RAH's helipad significantly reducing the risk of transferring maternity and neonatal emergencies.

What does the planning phase involve?

The project planning is the first critical stage in the development of a new WCH. The key phases of the planning process will begin with the development of the:

- Clinical Services Plan
- Service Delivery Models
- Strategic Design Brief
- Functional Design Brief

We will be engaging widely with relevant staff, clinicians, consumers, community members, unions and key stakeholders during the planning phase.

The Clinical Services Plan

This will form the foundation for the planning of the new hospital. It looks at least 10-15 years into the future using current health data, census information and projections of future local needs. The Clinical Services Plan will tell us what services in the hospital will be provided in the future and identify the number of treatment spaces in the new hospital.

Service Delivery Models

These will broadly define the way services will be delivered within each department at the new Women's and Children's Hospital.

Strategic Design Brief

This outlines the facility wide operational approach required to support the delivery of the services identified in the Clinical Services Plan. It will describe the design features that are important to support safe, high quality person and family centred care.

Functional Design Brief

This will look at what facilities are needed to support the hospital's services. This will provide us with information on the number and type of rooms and other spaces that are required, along with what departments need to be near each other to support high quality patient care.

How will the planning be used?

The information from the Clinical Services Plan, the Service Delivery Models, Strategic Design Brief, and the Functional Design Brief will be combined to inform the commencement of the design phase.

Will staff be consulted during the planning stage?

The next stage of planning for the hospital will involve strong engagement with our staff, clinicians, consumers, unions, community members and key stakeholders.

The planning phase is so important as it will ensure that our staff, clinicians, patients and visitors will have a world-class, contemporary, person and family centred facility that will meet the needs of future generations.

How has the site been chosen?

A number of potential site options for the new WCH were identified by the Taskforce and a site analysis was undertaken.

The evaluation criteria included assessing the clinical and physical connection to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, access to public transport, site proximity to accommodation for families and complementary services that support family and person and family care, site connectivity to education, research, and the Adelaide BioMed City, access and views of green space and State Government approvals.

The Taskforce assessed all site options against these criteria and determined that the preferred site at the western end of the Adelaide BioMed City will meet the needs of South Australian families into the future.

How much will a new WCH cost?

The overall cost of the project will be determined during the next stage of planning. The State Government is committed to building a new WCH within a reasonable budget and timeframe.

Has the size of the new WCH been determined?

The overall size of the hospital will be determined during the next stage of planning.

Will there be more parking at the new WCH?

Car parking will be an important part of the planning for the new WCH. Details about car parking will be determined during the planning phase.

Will accommodation services for families be available within close proximity to the new hospital site?

Family accommodation in close proximity to the new hospital is an important part of planning in the next stage for the new WCH.

What are the cultural considerations for the building of a new hospital on the site?

The new hospital will be built to incorporate cultural needs based on advice from Aboriginal Elders and our Aboriginal community.

How long will it take to build the new WCH?

The latest estimate for the completion date is in 2025/26.