



The Children's Hospital at Westmead Stage 2 Redevelopment

Fact Sheet | Sustainability | January 2022

Sustainable design sets new standards for our future



Artist impression of the new hospital

Sustainability is more than just building energy-efficient facilities and reducing waste (although they are critically important too).

Sustainability is about the social and economic factors which affect our lives, as well as the environmental ones.

The Children's Hospital at Westmead has a vision for a sustainable health system that's personalised, invests in wellness, and uses the latest design and digital technology to deliver outcomes that matter to patients and the community.

Social sustainability

Social sustainability describes how a project can affect people. For instance, a more welcoming place can reduce hospital avoidance, which negatively affect a patient's health and well-being.

Social sustainability includes better visitor amenity, keeping families together, and using art, play and discovery to promote well-being.

Economic sustainability

Economic sustainability considers the overall running cost as well as the building cost, so buildings can run efficiently for their whole lifetime, not just for the first few years.

This includes initiatives such as solar panels to reduce energy costs, and investing in materials which may be more expensive to buy but last longer, and offer better value for money.

Economic sustainability also looks at what our project can do to promote prosperity through employment, training, professional development, research and business enterprises.

Environmental sustainability

Environmental sustainability is probably the best known type of sustainability. It includes things like reducing waste, recycling materials, use of renewable energy resources, energy efficiency, dealing with heat stress, and other initiatives.

A sustainable future

One example of sustainability at work is the first clinical space complete at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. The space is a purpose-built facility which will house a number of services working towards supporting the movement of patients in and out of the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, and accessing care closer to home.

One such service is VirtualKids, which offers a range of services via phone, video conferencing or remote monitoring, and allows clinical information to be stored or sent electronically.

This reduces the need for families to travel to the hospital for routine appointments, saving travel time and stress.

Sustainability is part of our commitment to creating better places now, and for the future.

For more information visit the website.






For staff information, contact your Network Redevelopment planning lead
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Sustainable design snapshot

Our project is one of the first hospital projects in NSW to adopt the new Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) requirements agreed with the Department of Industry & Environment for state significant developments. ESD initiatives have been embedded in the design, and we will continue to work with our builders to ensure we meet our targets, as well as working towards improving social and economic sustainability.

 Social Sustainability	 Economic Sustainability	 Environmental Sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keeping families together and reducing stress by providing comfortable overnight beds for carers, and a parent accommodation zone with bedrooms, quiet rooms, kitchen and dining space.• More healthy food, a grocer and 24/7 food choices including ready-meals for staff and people staying in the hospital.• Prioritising the most-needed services by expanding acute care and surgical capacity - reducing waiting times and stress.• Arts strategy to reduce anxiety, encourage activity and help normalise the hospital experience.• Indoor/outdoor space for Aboriginal children and families to make them feel welcome and encourage them to come to hospital for their health care.• New play areas and landscaping to encourage kids (and adults) outside to play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patient rooms and services organised in the most efficient way to reduce operational costs e.g. intensive care and operating theatres on top of each other.• Growing virtual care services.• Shell spaces for future expansion built into the design to avoid costly and disruptive construction in the future.• Efficient services designed into the building from the start e.g. pharmacy robot for accurate and safe dispensing of medicines and pharmacy products.• Heating, cooling and circadian (natural sleep/body rhythm) lighting for best possible indoor environment quality.• Employment and training opportunities for people during construction, and ongoing education, professional development and job opportunities as services grow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New KIDSPARK forecourt with shade, gardens and established trees to reduce heat effects and tempt people outside for a break.• KIDSPARK forecourt close to 30% tree canopy coverage.• Solar panels on the new car park roof and façade, plus electric vehicle chargers.• Natural light in all patient rooms plus terraces, gardens, courtyards or balconies for fresh air and light on every level.• Walkways, ramps and stairs to encourage active movement and reduce reliance on lifts.• Green Travel Plan to help reduce private car use for staff, including the use of the Parramatta Light Rail, end-of-trip facilities and future Sydney Metro.• More inviting and walkable local streetscape connecting the hospitals to Westmead station and Metro.

Building and construction targets

Reduce water use by 22%

- Reduce the use of drinkable (potable) water by using rainwater to nourish the landscape.
- Water-saving fittings such as toilets, taps, showers and water-saving appliances with a minimum 5-star e.g. dishwashers, washing machines.

Reduce energy use by 20%

- First hospital car park in Australia with solar panels on the outside walls (façade) as well as the roof, which can generate a minimum of 600KW of power for the car park, and to offset the hospital's energy use.

Increase building innovation

- Use of products which meet the Environmental Declaration Product standard (such as paint, insulation and concrete alternatives) to reduce energy use and operational costs.
- Reuse and recycle construction materials wherever possible e.g. recycling steel.



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