



Melaleuca Unit

Sub-acute mental health care at Blacktown Hospital, May 2014

The new Melaleuca sub-acute mental health unit at Blacktown Hospital provides a unique consumer-led model of supportive care and programs to help consumers integrate successfully back into everyday life.



A new sub-acute mental health facility at Blacktown Hospital will provide unique consumer-led 'step-down' care for people with severe and debilitating mental illness who are amongst the most disadvantaged people in our community.

Sub-acute care can significantly improve people's health and quality of life by restoring their independence, allowing them to live with as much comfort and dignity as possible, and reducing unnecessary hospitalisation.

The Melaleuca Unit will act as a step-down from the existing acute mental health facility in Bungarribee House and other similar facilities in the local area.

It will provide rehabilitation and recovery services for adults, with clients involved in planning their care and identifying priorities for support.

The facility is designed to promote independence and self-responsibility, and to help

encourage reconnection with family and the community.

It will be a welcoming single-storey residential-style facility with:

- 20 inpatient beds with en suite facilities, writing desk and garden or courtyard views
- Activity, group and family rooms
- Quiet Room for respite
- Group rooms & family rooms
- Assisted Daily Living (ADL) Kitchen to help clients regain everyday skills.
- Pleasant internal courtyard and external landscaping.

Consumers will be able to transfer to the unit from acute facilities, such as Bungarribee House, refer themselves or be referred by a family members or a health professional.

Clients will typically stay for four to six weeks and will have access to a range of programs including learning everyday skills such as

budgeting, paying bills, applying for jobs and cooking.

The new Mental Health facility is jointly funded with the Australian Government as part of a commitment to funding genuine, practical and sustainable mental health reform to ensure that Australians living with mental illness get the care they need, when they need it.

Project snapshot

- 20 new inpatient bedrooms with en-suite facilities
- Part of the \$324 million BMDH Expansion Project Stage 1
- \$28 million funding from Australian Government
- Project Manager Appian for NSW Health Infrastructure
- Design by SKM
- Construction by ADCO constructions
- Construction start 2013
- Construction complete 2014.

