



WORK STARTS ON \$1.8M TERANG HOSPITAL REVAMP

Friday, February 5

The biggest revamp of the Terang Hospital and Mount View Aged Care Facility in almost 60 years is now underway.

The three-stage \$1.8 million project that will improve comfort, safety and privacy for patients and residents has started with a three-bedroom extension to the aged care facility.

The second stage of the project will refurbish existing aged care rooms and the work will continue with redevelopment of the hospital's acute ward north wing.

Member for Polwarth Richard Riordan today turned the first sod on the project and said it would enhance the quality of life for aged care residents and improve the working environment for staff.

"The upgrade is a much needed investment into our local infrastructure that will provide a modern and comfortable setting for aged care residents," Mr Riordan said.

"It was a great initiative of the previous Coalition Government and we're pleased the current Government has continued to support it."

TMHS finance and administration manager Brendan Williams said Ballarat based Nicholson Construction had been awarded the capital works tender and all building works are expected to be completed by December.

The Mount View building was last redesigned in 1994 and the hospital north wing hasn't had any significant upgrade since its opening in 1956.

The aged care facility will continue to offer 15 beds but all will be single rooms with more space for residents, improving privacy and comfort.

"It's as close to a home-living environment as you're likely to find anywhere," Mr Williams said.

The redevelopment also includes extended dining, communal lounge and sitting room areas and new north-facing deck area with expansive views.

The hospital refurbishment will ensure all inpatient rooms are single occupancy and compliant with current health standards

There will be 14 acute beds, well above the average occupancy of fewer than 10. The hospital has about 1100 patients each year, which has been roughly the same for the past 50 years. However, Mr Williams said the length of stay had reduced from 9.5 to three days as effective discharge planning and expanded community nursing services allow people to return to their own homes sooner.

The project was funded by \$1.1 million in State Government grants plus TMHS capital reserves.

Mr Williams said the health service would look for community support to raise \$150,000 to furnish and fit-out the new-look Mount View.

The fund-raising will kick off with the local Murray to Moyne cycle relay team which will be taking part in this year's 30th anniversary event.

A total fire safety services re-audit and other building compliance requirements had led to a longer than expected process to finalise a building permit.

Mr Williams said the local community was pleased to see the project start.

"There's a lot of excitement in the community about this project which will benefit the residents of our local communities for decades to come," he said.

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