



## Planning for a safe and successful transition

### *Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital*

Welcome to the first edition of the Welcome Home newsletter! This is one of the ways we will communicate the latest information as we plan a safe and successful transition to our new home for women's and children's services – the Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital.

I will be releasing these updates every few weeks and more often as needed. They will become more frequent, the closer we get to the opening of the new building.

These updates will provide information on the operational readiness and clinical planning as well as the project and construction milestones and issues as we enter the final stages of the build and fit out.

One very exciting change that will accompany the opening of the new Joan Kirner building is the commencement of a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This will be the first time a NICU has been available in the western suburbs of Melbourne and in fact it is the first new NICU in the state for some decades. This is a major step forward for the families whose babies need NICU care and we are grateful for the Victorian Government's support to make this possible. The Government will initially be funding the opening of two new NICU cots and four additional Level 5 cots, with scope for the unit to expand built in.



*The Ground Floor*

In line with the announcement of the new NICU, we are very pleased to be offering ten new discovery scholarships to support our Western Health nurses and nurse/midwives to undertake a funded Graduate Certificate in Nursing Practice (Neonatal Intensive Care). We have already had an overwhelmingly positive response to this offer.

It has been all systems go with the operational readiness planning. The leadership and management teams have been working on clinical operations and all necessary requirements since 2017 with specific groups looking at workforce, models of care, equipment and other matters.

The JKWCH Clinical Operational Readiness and Move (JCORM) Committees commenced in May 2018. These groups – combining both clinical and non-clinical staff - will oversee all operational requirements to support next year's move. The groups are formed into different streams: Paediatric Ambulatory; Women's Ambulatory; Maternity; Theatre Group; and Paediatrics and Neonates.

It was fantastic to see more than 500 staff and volunteers respond to the Change Readiness Survey we released a few weeks ago. This has provided invaluable feedback and a great base for the development of strategies and plans for the move. In our next newsletter, I will be able to share the outcomes of the survey.

Structural steel for the installation of the roof of the new building is currently being installed and as this progresses, the final form of the building will become evident. Lift installations have commenced and the walls on the ground floor are being painted.

Familiarisation walks for staff and volunteers are commencing at the end of June. The walks are limited to when the construction workers are on an RDO (Mondays). Due to safety concerns, only ten staff or volunteers will be allowed at one time. Priority will be given to those leading the planning for their service. As the site becomes safer, the opportunities to visit the building site will increase. If you feel you have a critical need for a site visit,

please contact [sue.valentine@wh.org.au](mailto:sue.valentine@wh.org.au) and she will be able to place you on the waiting list for a site visit.

As the operational teams plan to provide services in the Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital, the project team is carrying out all of the steps necessary to prepare the building for occupation and working in partnership with the operational teams, to plan the physical move into the building.

The selection and procurement of furniture fittings and equipment is being managed by Rutna Djeng who is working closely with Western Health staff. Andrew McGavin has joined the project team as the Systems Integration and Development Project Manager and Idi Baira is the ICT Project Manager.



***Rooms with a view – the outlook from the 9th floor***

Julie Collette is a specialist in commissioning hospitals to be operationally ready to accept patients and she has also joined the project team, along with Sarah Ross, who is skilled in the orientation and training of staff and volunteers to work in the new hospital. Their support will help to ensure that Western Health is well supported as we prepare for a safe and successful transition towards the end of the first quarter of 2019.

Regards

***Natasha Toohey***

Executive Director Operations



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