

Mobility Courtyard Gets Going

The redevelopment project's Community Liaison Group is delighted that the Marlborough Hospital Equipment Trust has accepted their application to fund an outdoor mobility courtyard. The courtyard will benefit patients undergoing rehabilitation therapy while recovering from stroke, joint replacement and other surgical procedures.

"The Community Liaison Group is very conscious that Marlborough has an increasing older population, with all the associated health issues, so we were anxious to make this project a priority," says Karen Fisher, group chair. "We are very pleased that the Marlborough Hospital Equipment Trust has supported our view that this courtyard will be well utilised."

The courtyard is specifically designed to increase confidence, improve mobility and promote independence. The courtyard is not a garden, but has a purposeful design including therapeutic equipment such as steps, a ramp and kerb, variable surface strips and a figure of eight pathway, all of which contribute to patients' physical rehabilitation and promote community reintegration.

The courtyard simulates a variety of everyday obstacles and challenges that are faced within the home and community setting. Functional balance, mobility, and safety are able to be evaluated and patients can practice skills and develop their confidence in a realistic environment. Additionally, patients can enjoy the benefits of being outdoors.

"Our patients will more quickly regain the independence required to return home and resume their lives," says Sue Allen, charge nurse manager. "Many thanks to the Marlborough Hospital Equipment Trust for making this courtyard a reality."

Located adjacent to the physiotherapy treatment room, the courtyard is expected to be completed in early September 2010.



Nurse Anne Marie Maurice and Assessment Treatment and Rehabilitation patient Mrs Webber review the plan

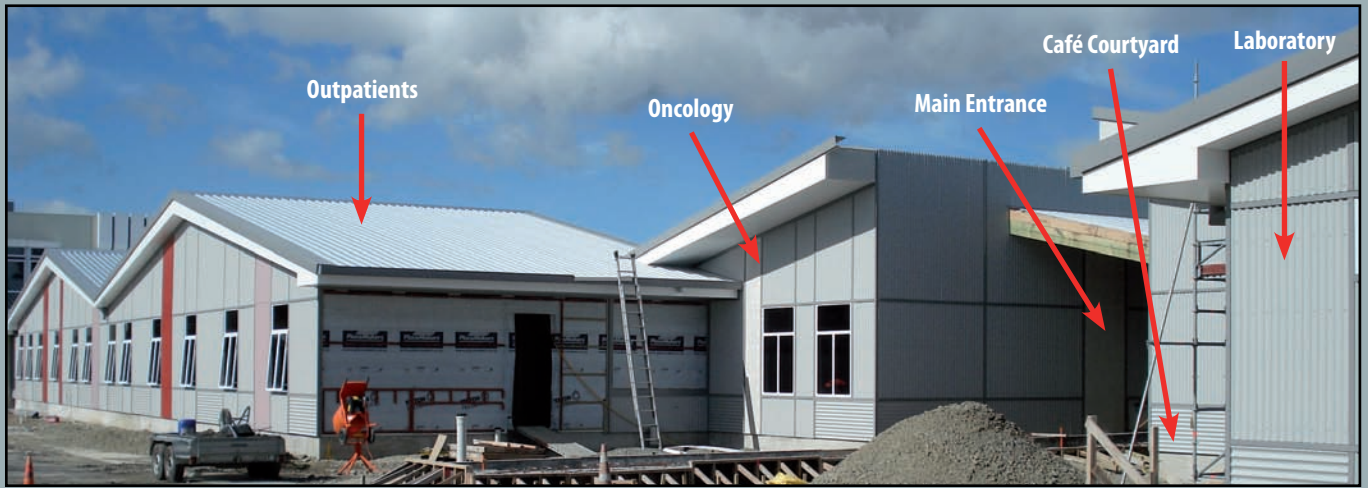


Staff Visit New Facilities

Site visits to the new Stage Three facilities have commenced for staff working in Outpatients, Day Stay Unit, Maternity and Paediatrics. Comments from the first visit included surprise and delight at the generous size of the Inpatient rooms in Maternity and the consultation spaces in Outpatients. Day Stay Unit staff enjoyed walking through their "fresh and neat" department after months of looking at the plans on paper. They are pleased with their "lovely" blue colour scheme and large storage cupboards.



Day Stay nurses orientate themselves in their new facility



Main Entrance Makeover Revealed

The look of Wairau Hospital's new façade has emerged as the installation of windows and external cladding takes place on the newly constructed buildings. Construction of a large canopy outside the main entrance, which will function as an undercover drop-off zone, will commence shortly.

Getting Ready for Relocation

With only a matter of weeks until their moving days, Day Stay Unit and Outpatients services are thinking about the benefits of relocating to their new facilities.

The Day Stay Unit (DSU) is looking forward to an improved layout, says Pippa Babb, DSU nurse and migration team representative. Phase two and three recovery areas are separate in the refurbished and extended facility, which allows for increased bed numbers and a more spacious environment. The unit team will also enjoy an extra consultation room and an isolation room.

"The changed layout is the most significant difference for us," says Pippa. "We will need to reorganise the way we work, and review all of our systems, from the patient flow to the best way to man the two separate areas." DSU staff plan to meet with theatre colleagues for their input. "We will be working more closely than ever with the theatre team, as our primary staff base is co-located."

The Outpatients and Oncology departments are looking forward to bringing together their thirteen individual services into one purpose built facility, says Brenda McAlpine, charge nurse manager for Outpatients/Oncology. "It will be much easier for patients to come to one reception point for their appointments instead of four or five different areas, as they do currently."

The various Outpatients services are meeting weekly as a wider team to work through streamlining the multiple existing processes such as ordering systems, stocking of supplies

and methods of communication to establish standardised systems which will save time and effort for all staff.

Day Stay Unit and Outpatients staff are particularly pleased about their closer proximity to other hospital services in the new streamlined campus. The return of Day Stay to their original location next to theatre is much more efficient, as patients will only need to travel a matter of metres between the operating theatre and the comfortable new recovery areas. Outpatients' new facilities are located between Radiology and the Laboratory on the main corridor, only metres from the new main entrance. "These services are used most frequently in conjunction with Outpatients appointments," says Brenda. "Our centralised location will be of immediate benefit to patients finding their way around the campus."



Pippa Babb, Day Stay Unit, and Brenda McAlpine, Outpatients

Moving Timeline

October 2010

- Day Stay Unit returns to extended and refurbished facility
- Dental Services move to new facility, sharing a reception with Day Stay Unit

November 2010

- Outpatients services and Oncology move to new co-located facility
- Maternity and Paediatrics move to new facility
- Doctors move to new meeting and sleep accommodation
- New Main Entrance and Café open

Countdown to Stage Three Construction Completion: Two Months

Queries or Comments? Contact the Communications Coordinator on 03 520 9859 or email wairau.redevelopment@nmhs.govt.nz