



JOONDALUP INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY

Having a place where you belong, can contribute, and feel accepted is fundamental to everyone's mental health, including people with a mental illness.

Background

- The State Government is committed to dramatically increasing mental health services in Western Australia and has invested significant funding.
- Intermediate Care facilities are one of the new initiatives to provide more community-based accommodation for people living with a mental illness.
- Around 274,000 Western Australians with a mental illness live successfully in the community. One in five Western Australians will be affected by mental illness at some time in their lives. Approximately 1 in 40 will be affected by a severe ongoing mental illness.
- The Intermediate Care facility has been developed in response to an identified need for short-stay residential accommodation following a period of hospital care, or to allow people living at home the opportunity to receive residential support without having to be admitted to hospital.
- Evidence indicates that there are benefits of providing supported accommodation including improved physical and mental well-being, increased community, social and vocational participation, greater independence and decreased hospitalisation.

Joondalup Intermediate Care facility

- The Joondalup Intermediate Care facility will be located adjacent to the Joondalup Health Campus site on Upney Mews.
- This site has been selected after careful consideration of needs such as access to community services and amenities, close proximity to existing mental health services and the service model requirement of integration with a residential area.
- The facility will be constructed by the Department of Housing and leased to a not-for-profit, non-government organisation to manage and provide support to residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The facility is independent of the operators of the Joondalup Health Campus.
- The Intermediate Care facility at Joondalup is designed to provide short-stay (up to 90 days) accommodation for adults with a mental illness and moderate support needs.
- The aim of Intermediate Care is to assist people to transition from hospital inpatient care to community based care. Intermediate Care also aims to help people avoid being admitted to hospital when they need only brief periods of support. The service will provide activities that lay the foundation for self management, relapse prevention and rehabilitation.
- Intermediate Care facilities provide an opportunity for people with mental illness to develop living skills, increase social and recreational options and access support and information to help them successfully return to community living.
- Intermediate Care facilities are aligned with international best practice. The model is endorsed by the Senate Select Committee on Mental Health (2006) and meets the Australian National Standards for Mental Health Services. The Intermediate Care model builds on successful programs in other states and sectors.
- The Intermediate Care facility consists of:
 - 22 self-contained units arranged in small clusters around the site. Each unit includes a kitchenette, laundry, enclosed patio and staff alert system. One unit is modified to accommodate a person with a disability.



JOONDALUP INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY

- indoor and outdoor communal areas for socialising, recreation and group activities such as meals preparation.
- an administration area which will act as the 'front door' to the facility. This area includes a lobby, staff offices, interview room and overnight staff bedrooms.
- security, fire detection and emergency alarm systems.
- The design of the facility has allowed for the retention of a number of the established plants and trees, and landscaping will be provided that complements this.
- The facility includes sufficient onsite parking for residents, staff and visitors.
- There will be onsite staff support available to residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Clinical support provided by the public mental health services will be available everyday.
- A team of clinical and non-clinical staff will assist residents to develop support plans that meet their personal needs and goals through the provision of clinical and psychosocial activities.

Residents

- Residents will have a diagnosed mental illness and moderate support needs. They will generally be people who have been receiving hospital treatment, but whose ongoing management would be better provided in a community setting.
- Residents will be chosen by mental health clinicians, who will assess residents' suitability for community living.
- Residents will be regularly assessed by the clinical team to ensure the facility remains the best accommodation option for each individual.
- While the residents will be single, there will be the opportunity for them to have visitors. This will help them strengthen their connections with their families and the community. Visitors will have access to the facility by invitation only and with the knowledge of the service operator.

Management and staff

- The Joondalup Intermediate Care facility will be operated by a not-for-profit, non-government organisation (NGO) experienced in the provision of accommodation support.
- The NGO will provide individualised psychosocial programs and support to the residents and clinical services will be provided by the public mental health service.
- The NGO will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the facility and will be the on-going contact point for the community.
- There will be formal monitoring of the accommodation service by the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist and the Licensing and Standards Review Unit, with monthly visits by the Council of Official Visitors.
- The non-government organisation must also meet the WA Service Standards for Non-Government Providers of Community Health Services.
- There will be a minimum of one staff member on site at all times.
- General health needs of residents will be provided by local general practitioners and other primary health services.
- Additional after hours support will be available through the Mental Health Emergency Response Line and the North Metropolitan Area Health Service Community Emergency Response Team.



JOONDALUP INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY

Clinical Support

- Clinical support will be delivered by health professionals with clinical experience in providing nursing, medical and allied health care to people with a mental illness.
- Mental health clinicians will be responsible for monitoring, implementing and reviewing the clinical supports for each resident. This will include ensuring a prompt response in the case of any change in a resident's wellbeing.
- Mental health clinicians will also work with the NGO to develop social and support networks with community groups and other organisations.
- Detailed care support plans will be developed with each resident, including rehabilitation programs and intensive ongoing clinical assessment.

Community briefing

A community briefing will be undertaken including providing the following organisations and people with information:

- the City of Joondalup
- local Members of Parliament
- non-government organisations, Divisions of GP, mental health services and community services operating in the area
- neighbours of the facility.

Project status

The Department of Housing has appointed architects who have submitted architectural plans for the Joondalup Intermediate Care facility to the Joondalup City Council for development approval. Following the granting of this approval the Department of Housing will call for tenders for the construction of the buildings.

It is anticipated that construction of the facility will commence towards the end of 2009 or early 2010 with the facility opening in late 2010.

Further information

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