

Emergency Department



The Emergency Department (ED) at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) is 25 per cent bigger than at the old RAH and has been designed to ensure the most effective flow of patients through emergency to the care they need.

A BIGGER EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

The new ED has capacity for up to 70 treatment spaces compared to the 59 spaces at the old RAH. In addition there will be eight resuscitation spaces in the new facility, four more than the old RAH.

This will provide the new RAH with 25 per cent additional emergency patient capacity to support future growth in demand.

The new RAH will also benefit from the latest advances in technology and a floor plan flexible enough to respond to changes in technology and services over time.

24-HOUR EMERGENCY CARE

The new RAH will be a 24 hours, seven days a week 'super-site' for major emergencies in South Australia, such as heart attacks, strokes and major accidents. The new ED will be the complex multi-trauma destination for the state, with senior doctors and nurses on duty around the clock to ensure rapid decision-making.

There will be a 24 hour on-site stroke team, a 24 hour on-call service for acute coronary syndrome and 24 hour diagnostic and imaging services.

IMPROVED PATIENT ACCESS AND FLOW

The new RAH has been designed to enable patients, where appropriate, to arrive at an ambulance bay and be directly admitted to where the care can be given to them, rather than going through the ED.

Admitting patients directly to the area of the hospital with the services they need will improve patient access and flow, and unlock capacity in the ED meaning better quality care and shorter waiting times.

QUICK FACTS

- > On arrival at the ED, patients will be assessed by senior clinicians in a 'Quick Look' area, enabling a prompt assessment of their illness or injury.
- > After being assessed patients will be directed to the most appropriate area for treatment, ensuring they receive the care they need as quickly as possible and reducing time spent in the waiting area.

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IMPROVED ACCESS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMERS

The new hospital has been designed to enable direct admission for mental health patients to a separate mental health care unit. Known patients with a mental health illness will be able to access the Mental Health Unit via ambulance entry, rather than via the ED as is the case currently. This will reduce pressure on the ED and enable patients with mental health illness direct access to the care they need.

In addition, the new facility will include a secure emergency entrance for patients with a mental health illness, maximising patient dignity and security for patients and staff.

EQUIPPED TO RESPOND TO MAJOR DISASTERS

The ED is equipped to respond to major disasters, such as a chemical spill, with decontamination showers enabling mass decontamination, while having five negative pressure rooms and a quarantine room will be crucial in the event of an infectious outbreak.

The quarantine room is designed to the standards required to support patients with highly infectious diseases such as Ebola and can be segregated from the rest of the ED.

The hospital has been designed with flexibility to convert specific spaces into additional clinical areas in the event of a mass casualty disaster such as a plane crash.

CONSULTATION TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE MODEL OF CARE

The Royal Adelaide Hospital's new model of care and the design of the facility is based on leading international clinical evidence, and has been developed in consultation with doctors and nurses to develop the best model for South Australia.

The design development process for the new facility, including the ED, has involved significant input and consultation with clinical staff and ED staff, as well as government and industry bodies such as South Australian Ambulance Service. In addition, 80 planning groups, involving in excess of 500 staff have reviewed specific areas of the hospital design, ensuring the Royal Adelaide Hospital facility is purpose-built for the specific health care needs of South Australia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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