

18 October, 2013

Accessing St George Hospital during building works

Construction of the new Older Persons' Sub-Acute Mental Health Unit is now complete and members of the public are advised that pedestrian access from Belgrave Street, Kogarah into the hospital site will be available from late October.

Cath Whitehurst, Director of Operations, St George and Sutherland Hospitals said the new \$8 million 16-bed Older Persons' Sub-Acute Mental Health Unit will provide recovery based treatment for people aged 65 years and older requiring sub-acute mental health care.

"The new facility will provide integrated care with a seamless transition from hospital-based services to the community for older people who have mental health conditions," she said.

To allow for construction works for the new Emergency Department to progress, from mid-October 2013 until February 2014, there will be road works and other construction works taking place at the main Hospital entrance driveway from Gray Street, Kogarah.

The work includes road widening and a new patient drop-off area which will increase the driveway capacity and provide improved pedestrian access.

To minimise disruption, the work will be completed in five stages, and there will be temporary arrangements for both pedestrians and vehicles from time to time. Temporary signs will be provided, and traffic controllers will attend at busy times when needed to ensure safety.

The work will be completed in February 2014, several months prior to the opening of the new Emergency Department in 2014.

Ms Whitehurst said the new \$39 million Emergency Department will be a significant boost for St George Hospital, which has one of the busiest Emergency Departments in the state.

"Our Emergency Department currently treats more than 62,900 patients and admits around 22,000 patients each year. The new Emergency Department will provide increased capacity, a greater range of services and improved facilities for patients," she said.

To assist visitors and patients with directions, site maps are available from the Enquiries desk located in the Gray Street foyer of the Hospital, and the Volunteers Booth located in Belgrave Street. Volunteers also offer assistance with escorting outpatients and visitors to wards and departments.

For more information go to the St George Hospital Emergency Department Redevelopment Project website at: <http://stgeorgehospitalproject.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/>