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Building works commence at Prince of Wales Hospital

Prince of Wales Hospital is gearing up for a busy year in 2014 with the redevelopment of the Emergency Department (ED), an upgrade of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and the beginning of Stage Two capital works on the \$79.8 million cancer centre being built on site.

While 2013 marked 50 years since the hospital first joined forces with the University of New South Wales, growing to become one of Sydney's major tertiary referral hospitals situated on the largest health campus in Australia, 2014 will be a year of improvement work at the hospital.

Director of Operations, Jon Roberts, said work would begin in January on the \$2 million ED redevelopment which will provide an expanded treatment area and additional treatment pathways so patients receive the best care in the fastest time possible.

"The upgrade will mean an additional eight low acuity treatment spaces which will take the pressure off acute spaces, approximately 200 square metres extra space in treatment areas, and 100 square metres extra space in the reception area," Mr Roberts said.

Mr Roberts said it was an important investment in one of Sydney's busiest hospitals with an ED that cares for more than 50,000 adult patients each year.

"There may be some disruptions in the Emergency Department in early 2014, for example noise and increased foot traffic, but it will not impact on services," he said.

Meanwhile work has begun on the refurbishment of Prince of Wales Hospital's ICU which treats 1400 patients each year.

The \$1.5 million project will see improvements towards more sustainable ICU/High Dependency Unit operations which will be inclusive of two negative pressure rooms for isolation capacity.

"The isolation rooms will significantly improve our ability to provide adequate isolation to patients with airborne contagious diseases," Mr Roberts said.

The ICU upgrade is expected to be complete by mid-2014.

Mr Roberts said the construction of the \$79.8 million Nelune Comprehensive Cancer Centre (NCCC) and Australian Advanced Treatment Centre (AATC) at Prince of Wales Hospital would ramp up in 2014 with the completion of Stage One and the beginning of Stage Two.

The NCCC and AATC project is scheduled for completion by mid-2016 and will greatly advance the treatment of those living with and recovering from cancer.

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