

## Newsfeed No. 50

August 2023



### Three cranes and another on the way!

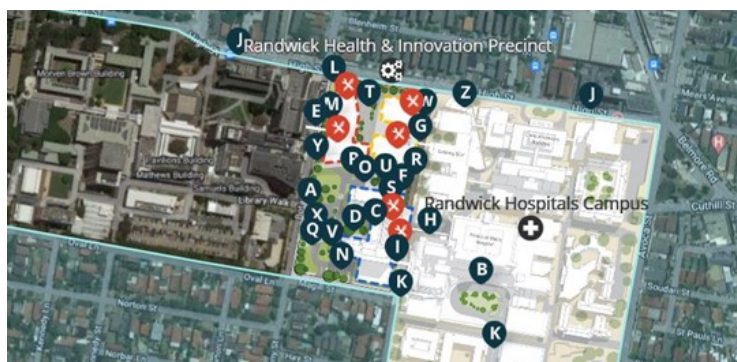
With the recent installation of the first UNSW Health Translation Hub tower crane, and another soon to be installed, the redevelopment site is definitely a prominent landmark on the Randwick skyline!



### Learn more about RCR

**Keen to know what's being delivered as part of the Randwick Campus Redevelopment?**

Be sure to check out our [interactive map](#) for the latest information on construction activities across campus, or to learn more about each of the Randwick Campus Redevelopment projects and their key components.



### Also in this edition:

- ✓ New pop-up engagement space
- ✓ Future biospecimen lab
- ✓ Acute Services Building update
- ✓ Out and about with the project team
- ✓ Faces of the Precinct feature

For more information:



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### Redevelopment pop-up engagement space opens in Sydney Children's Hospital

**A Sydney Children's Hospital Stage 1 and Minderoo Children's Comprehensive Cancer (SCH1/MCCCC) engagement space will be launched on Thursday 31 August, with the project team hosting construction activities for children and providing information about the exciting redevelopment project.**

The space, which was recently refurbished by project builder John Holland Group, is located in the admissions area near the High Street entrance to Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. The aim of the installation is to provide a dedicated space to host activities for children and their families, and to share information about the new hospital and research centre during construction.

The redevelopment team will partner with health organisations and hospital departments to host themed sessions in the space each month, focused on public health topics, celebration of cultural events, and a range of construction education sessions.

"The purpose of the space is to have a presence in the existing hospital to help educate the community about what's in store for the new building, and to help answer any questions," said SCH1/MCCCC Project Director Cathy Lovell.



"With different activities and information planned each month, we hope to welcome many people to the space during the next year, as the new building takes shape next door."

*If you'd like information on how to be involved in activation of the pop-up space, please contact the SCH1/MCCCC redevelopment team via email to [SCHN-Redev@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SCHN-Redev@health.nsw.gov.au).*



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*Artist's impression of future biospecimen lab*

## Blood, sweat and tears: new lab will promote best practice in biospecimen research

**In 2024, UNSW will open three new laboratories alongside clinical units within the new Prince of Wales Hospital Acute Services Building (ASB). One will be dedicated to biospecimen services.**

In the integrated eastern extension of the ASB, UNSW will house state-of-the-art research, clinical innovation, biomedical and teaching facilities across 10 floors and approximately 5,000 square metres. The space will include three wet-research laboratories.

The level two laboratory will focus on collection, processing, storage and distribution of clinical biospecimens for use in research. A biospecimen is any sample contributed by a patient or research participant. Biospecimens include blood, tears, tumour tissue, hair and saliva, amongst others. Consenting patients can donate samples that are collected during surgery, provided by the NSW Pathology service, or given as part of a clinical trial.

[UNSW Biospecimen Services](#) currently has over 40,000 specimens from nearly 5,000 participants available for research in its [Health Precincts](#)

[Biobank](#). The Biospecimen Services team receives, processes and stores these samples for researchers to then use on their projects.

Samples are de-identified to protect the privacy of the donor, annotated with useful information, and safely stored in the UNSW Biorepository before distribution to researchers. The samples are used only by researchers with ethically approved studies which may include disease testing, diagnosis and analysis. Biospecimen Services helps researchers with their own collection protocols, including assistance with ethics, liaising with clinicians and pathology services, and secure storage of samples and data.

Dr Carl Power, who heads Preclinical Imaging and Biospecimen Research facilities at UNSW, helped design the new laboratory and sees the benefit of co-locating in the hospital.

“What is most exciting about the new laboratory is that we will be working adjacent to clinicians, surgeons and those working in pathology.”

*Continued over page...*



“The location within the ASB will put us in closer proximity to patients. It’s essential to be able to explain to patients and their families why donating is important and how that one little sample can contribute to helping others,” he said.

Dr Anusha Hettiaratchi manages UNSW’s Biospecimen Services, which will expand into the new space. She agrees co-location within the hospital is key.

“Timing is critical. With this new lab, we will be able to reduce the time between receiving a sample from a patient and getting it into the lab for use by researchers. It ensures sample quality is maintained, contributing to excellent research.”

The facility will service university researchers, industry partners and students working on specific research projects, and will also be a resource for clinicians who are interested in doing research. The laboratory will support both researcher-driven and institutional biospecimen collections from consented participants.

Recently, UNSW Biospecimen Services received NSW Health Pathology’s certification as part of the NSW Health Statewide Biobanking Framework Biobank Certification Program.

The Biospecimen Services team is excited about building the precinct’s biospecimen repository and using the collections to help future research.



Dr Anusha Hettiaratchi

“Our goal is to support good projects. Whether supporting researchers to get their own collection or utilising samples already collected and stored within the Health Precincts Biobank, we can help them at each step,” Anusha said.

The laboratory will be run as part of UNSW’s [Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre](#), which manages major laboratory instruments and services used by researchers.



### Have you seen it?

**UNSW’s crest, the first visible symbol marking the eastern extension, was installed on the north eastern façade of the Acute Services Building in July.**

Made from aluminium with an opal acrylic face, the three-metre-high sign will light up at night when the space becomes operational in 2024.

The UNSW eastern extension will include research, clinical innovation and teaching facilities. Internal fit-out is currently underway.

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### Acute Services Building is a hive of activity, nine months on from the first move...

**In November 2022, the Central Sterilizing Services Department (CSSD) became the first occupants of the new Prince of Wales Hospital Acute Services Building (ASB), and the team has been non-stop ever since!**

The state-of-the-art technology in the ASB enables the CSSD to provide an efficient and streamlined service, including fully flexible endoscopy reprocessing for the entire campus – something which was previously undertaken across several satellite locations.

The new CSSD department is three times the size of the previous space, providing opportunity for future growth and increase in activity, such as when the ASB's new operating theatres go live.

The CSSD team continues to review its systems and processes, resulting in the introduction of a new and improved real-time electronic tracking application for all reusable medical devices.

CSSD staff are also currently working with the operating theatres team to review the use of single use plastic bowls, with a view to transitioning to reusable bowls which can be resterilised, dramatically reducing the amount of non-renewable waste.

CSSD Project Coordinator, Nanuma Lipitoa, expressed how staff morale has been boosted since moving to the new facility.

"I love the new space with its natural light – we can actually see outside. The working environment is fresh, and I love coming to work. We are still in the process of fine tuning, but working in the new space has re-energised me," Nanuma said.



### A special place for Medical Officers

**Medical Officers at Prince of Wales Hospital (PoWH) will soon be able to spend time in a new lounge area, which will feature meeting rooms and study spaces, in addition to a lounge area.**

This soon-to-open space is hoped to be a much-loved addition to the frequently used Education, Training and Research (ETR) spaces which are located throughout the new ASB.

Junior Medical Officers, Sarah Badger and Abdul Sabih, agree: "The new room will be a great addition for the doctors at PoWH. It is ideally situated between the two buildings, allowing quicker access to the patients, and will provide an area for doctors to work, rest and connect with peers. We are currently in final stages of furnishing the area, hoping to create a space that improves wellbeing and camaraderie."

The lounge will be conveniently located on level 3 of the Campus Centre side of the ASB clinical link bridge. Special thanks to the President and members of the Resident Medical Officer Association who have been actively involved in the design and fit-out of this exciting new facility, with their input vital to understanding what Medical Officers were seeking for the space.



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### New inpatient wards taking shape

The progress of internal fit-out of the future Speciality Surgery Ward (ASB 6N) and General Surgery Ward (ASB 6S) within Level 6 of the new ASB has created much excitement, with the teams enjoying watching their wards being built.

Site walks of the surgical ward have now commenced and a preliminary audit of the current Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) has been undertaken, with further consultation commencing shortly to determine the requirements of the ward.

Each ward will have 32 bed spaces, including a significant increase in the number of single rooms, complemented by two negative pressure rooms.

The education, training and research space between the two wards will reflect those across other floors of the ASB.

*Pictured left: PoWH engineer, Daniel Reitano, checking out the view of the staff terrace from Level 6.*



### Feature artwork shaped by staff

**The input of hospital staff and community has helped shape a local landscape inspired artwork that features in the main entrance foyer of the new Acute Services Building.**

The artwork reflects hospital employees' connection to nature and local coastline, with Prince of Wales Hospital staff helping develop the design through a series of workshops with local artist, Richard Briggs.

Richard's foyer artwork design, created in his signature style that also features in a range of other spaces within the new building, aims to celebrate the landscape of the Randwick coastline – connecting with country, place and community.

"I was interested in hospital staff coming along for the journey in my artwork creation.

"It was so interesting to hear ideas and stories from staff about what makes the place they live or work in special," Richard said.

Visit the B1 main entrance foyer to see the completed artwork.

*Check out our short timelapse video to see how the new artwork installation evolved.*



### New terrace space now accessible

**Level 4 of the ASB is the location of a new outdoor terrace.**

The terrace provides a welcoming space for all PoWH staff, with an abundance of fresh air and greenery, along with tables and chairs to support staff coming together for breaks.



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### Out and about with the redevelopment project teams...

Check out where some of our team members have been visiting recently, expanding their knowledge and spreading the word about the Randwick Campus Redevelopment projects.



Members of the SCH1/MCCCC project team recently toured the existing [Children's Cancer Institute's](#) (CCI) laboratories to learn about the specialised processes and systems used to help inform cancer research, including storage requirements for samples, cancer cell identification techniques, and use of robots to increase efficiencies.

The tour also provided an opportunity for team members to gain a deeper understanding of how the [Minderoo Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre](#) (MCCCC), which will be located on levels 3 to 6 of the new hospital building and also within the UNSW Health Translation Hub, will help transform the treatment of childhood cancer by optimising the collaborative space and joint processes for scientists, clinicians and educators within a close-knit multi-disciplinary centre.

The future MCCCC will include state-of-the-art wet and dry laboratory spaces; education, training and research spaces; patient and family focused retreat areas; and oncology unit/s.



#### MCCCC / CCI FUN FACTS:

- CCI and Sydney Children's Hospital share an almost 40-year history of working collaboratively to translate laboratory discoveries into clinical trials and clinical care.
- The new MCCCC will be Australia's first Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre of its kind.
- CCI holds the largest collection of paediatric oncology specimens in the southern hemisphere.



UNSW's Christina Kingen (second from right) recently took representatives from community developer Springfield City Group on a walking tour to see progress on UNSW's Eastern Extension and Health Translation Hub projects. The group was interested to learn about how co-locating university research and education activities with industry partners and clinical care would improve patient outcomes.

Located in Queensland, Health City Springfield Central is part of a Knowledge Precinct where health, education and innovation come together to facilitate idea generation and accelerate commercialisation.



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### Faces of the Precinct: Q&A with Professor Michael Farrell

**Q: What is your role at the Randwick Health & Innovation Precinct?**

**A:** I am the Director of [The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre \(NDARC\)](#).

Before that, I was Professor of Addiction Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry at Kings College London. My research interests include treatment evaluation, national and international drug policy. I am also the Chair of the Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and other drugs (ANACAD). I have a long-standing interest in drug dependence, comorbidity and drugs in the wider criminal justice system. I am also a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) [Expert Committee on Drug and Alcohol Dependence](#).



**Q: What attracted you to this type of work?**

**A:** I trained as a physician and then as a psychiatrist early in my career. One of my first jobs was in alcohol treatment, where I was amazed by the transformative power of good treatment. Also, the challenge of developing research in this area. It was early in the AIDS epidemic, so, responding with harm reduction to reduce injecting risk behaviour was urgently required. It became clear to me that this was a field where there was great need and opportunity to further develop research and practice. So, I was involved in establishing a large community-based alcohol and drug treatment service in South London and ran a research program at Kings College London during a very exciting time of service and research expansion.

We're operating in a complex world, and one of the key challenges is behaviour that you can't necessarily put into a neat little box. The field spans from international drug policy to clinical trials,

anthropology, economics, pharmacology, neuroscience and genetics. Providing best practice and high-quality research that informs policy makers and reduces the harm of alcohol and other drugs is at the centre of, not only what I do, but what we are all doing here at NDARC. The work is dynamic, it changes and evolves, but the relationship between substances and the harm they can do to society remains, and so, I am proud to be a part of this vital work.

**Q: What excites you most about the Precinct?**

**A:** What we are seeing is greater synchronicity of health experts based on a shared objective – research and work that helps society in one form or another. It is an exciting chapter and will bring more leading researchers and clinicians under one roof, so to say. The more we communicate with each other, the better the outcome, not just for us, but the public at large.

**Q: What do the next six months look like?**

**A:** We are embarking on our annual keystone event, the [2023 NDARC Annual Research Symposium](#) in October. This is an incredibly exciting event for us all here at NDARC because this will be a hybrid event, which is different to last year's online-only event. It will be a fantastic experience and I would strongly encourage people in the sector to register. This is taking up a lot of our time right now, but it's great to be close to such a major headline event.

#### RHIP DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12 September: [UNSW Dementia Research Day](#)

13 September: [Randwick Research Seminar - Organoids for Prescription Medicine](#)

13 September: [MedConnect - Closing the Gender Health Gap](#)

27 October: [2023 NDARC Annual Research Symposium](#)

November: Research@Randwick (more to come!)

Learn more about RHIP's partners, purpose and impact at [rhip.org.au](http://rhip.org.au), and if you haven't already, follow RHIP on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#) to keep up to date with what's happening across the Precinct.