

Monash Children's Hospital

NEW HOSPITAL
DEVELOPMENT

03 issue
July 2016



Victoria's new children's hospital takes shape

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Monash Children's Hospital

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A message from the Premier and Health Minister

Victoria is Australia's fastest growing state and has a booming birth rate - so the establishment of the new Monash Children's Hospital could not be more timely.

Co-located with the Monash Medical Centre, the new dedicated hospital is being built with the needs of patients and their loved ones in mind.

The Monash Children's Hospital will host Victoria's largest neonatal intensive care unit and special care unit, and will provide a special link-way to connect with the Monash Women's maternity services.

The new hospital is located within one of Victoria's key research hubs, the Monash Health Translation Precinct. By partnering with Monash University, the new hospital will help expand research into childhood illness and ensure our kids have access to the latest treatments.

Initiated under the Victorian Labor Government, we are proud that the Monash Children's Hospital will be opened under a Victorian Labor Government - in-full and with the facilities and services patients deserve.

Importantly, last year we provided funds to reinstate the helipad that will be located on the roof of Monash Children's Hospital, so that Victorians facing life threatening emergencies receive the urgent care they need.

In our recent Victorian Budget 2016/17, we also provided an additional \$14.6 million to make sure Early in Life Mental Health Services have the facilities they require on-site.

A further \$300,000 will go towards the establishment of Australasia's first dedicated paediatric Surgical Simulation Centre, to ensure that surgeons receive the training they need to help save lives.

We are delighted to be part of delivering this state-of-the-art hospital for Victorian children and their families.

**The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of Victoria**

**The Hon Jill Hennessy MP
Minister for Health and
Ambulance Services**



**Welcome to the
Monash Children's Hospital**

Welcome to this edition of the Monash Children's Hospital Project newsletter.

It is a busy time at Monash Health as our new 230-bed Monash Children's Hospital Project enters its final stages.

Every year, Monash Children's Hospital cares for more than 63,000 children in emergency, and more than 36,000 children are admitted into our care.

Delivering on a long-held dream for many of our staff, in 2017 we will be able to provide care in an environment designed specifically for children and their families.

Natural light and private rooms are in abundance in our new hospital and will help our young patients and their families feel a sense of comfort and wellbeing during their time with us.

With the final stages of construction moving quickly, our teams are now planning a smooth and timely move for early 2017.

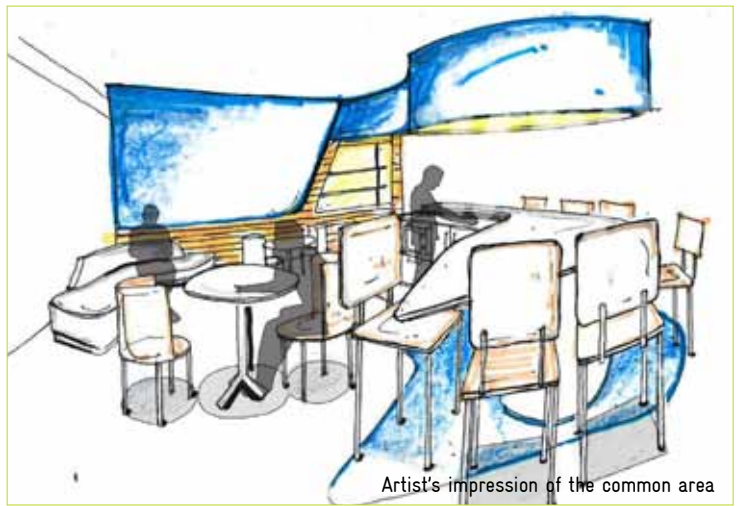
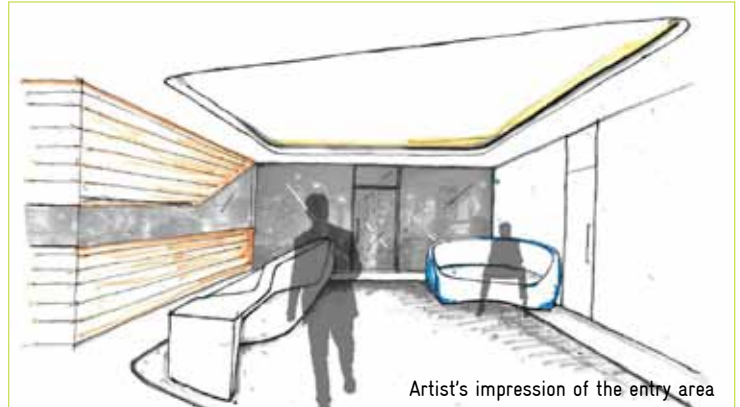
I encourage you to find out more about our new hospital:

- visit newchildrenshospital.org
- contact newchildrenshospital@monashhealth.org

We look forward to sharing our new hospital with the children and families of Victoria.

**Andrew Stripp
Chief Executive, Monash Health**

Education and research space



Monash University has committed \$6 million to develop space in the new Monash Children's Hospital to support teaching, clinical and research areas.

Professor Nick Freezer, Monash Children's Hospital Medical Director and Head of Paediatrics at Monash University, said a prominent University presence in the Monash Children's Hospital was vital for connecting clinical care, research and education.

"It will support all disciplines including medicine, nursing, midwifery, podiatry, dietetics, occupational therapy, social work, music therapy and physiotherapy," Professor Freezer said.

The funding will enable construction and equipping of multidisciplinary clinical education and research facilities featuring the latest in information

technology, telecommunications and video conferencing capability for student education and clinical meetings.

"With our patients' consent, our clinical staff and medical students will have access to live webcasts from the Monash Children's Hospital operating theatres to view surgical procedures," Professor Freezer said.

Information relating to patient monitoring, anaesthesia and diagnostic imaging will also be viewed, fostering interdisciplinary discussion and learning.

In addition to the education and research space, a state-of-the-art Patient Safety Simulation and Clinical Skills Centre will be built, providing an opportunity for staff and students to develop their clinical skills.

"The centre will replicate a hospital emergency department resuscitation bay

and will be equipped with computerised infant and child simulators," Professor Freezer said.

It is anticipated that the new facilities will support 600 undergraduate and postgraduate students each year, including Honours, Masters, PhD, and post-graduate courses.

The new space will be closely aligned to the Monash Health Translation Precinct and part of the Women's and Children's Health theme of the Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre.

"Enhancing translational research capabilities at the Monash Children's Hospital will expedite discovery and innovation to deliver world-leading healthcare to the children of Victoria, nationally and internationally," Professor Freezer said.

New children's hospital construction upd



It has been an eventful two years since the Monash Children's Hospital site was handed over to Lendlease at the beginning of July 2014.

The daily construction site labour force is still being maintained with around 320 workers on average per day. The project remains on time for completion in December 2016, with the hospital to be open in 2017.

Work has been progressing rapidly, with precast, curtain wall and punch window installation complete. The main entry

glazing has recently been installed. Fitout is progressing across all floors of the building, with installation of wall and ceiling plasterboard, vinyl, joinery and painting of walls.

Aided by tower cranes 'Hefty' and 'Monty', erection of atrium steel, skylight and roofing is now complete. We farewelled the cranes after the construction of the building's structural frame was completed in December 2015.

Funding from the Victorian Government has allowed for planning and construction

for the helipad. The helipad purchase has progressed and the first container of components to construct the helipad arrived in June 2016.

February was a busy time on site, with the slab for the Surgical Simulation Centre being poured on 6 February and the construction of the Gait Lab commencing on 8 February.

Physical connections between Monash Medical Centre and the new Monash Children's Hospital have been established. Link bridges connecting the



November 2015

Fast facts about the construction of the new hospital

1,500 TONNES OF REINFORCEMENT

35,000m² OF PLASTERBOARD WILL BE USED

14,000 CUBIC METRES OF CONCRETE WILL BE USED IN CONSTRUCTION

1000 DOORS WILL BE INSTALLED

35,000m² OF FLOOR FINISHES INCLUDING VINYL AND CARPET

35,000 CUBIC METRES OF DIRT WILL BE REMOVED

TWO-YEAR CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

TWO CRANES ON SITE



new hospital to the Monash Medical Centre were installed over the weekend of 19-20 March and construction of the west link corridor from the Monash Medical Centre Emergency Department to the Monash Children's Hospital has commenced.

The first of our lifts were activated allowing for permanent power to be available for commissioning, enabling the lift to be run as a goods lift throughout this fitout phase of construction.

Building commissioning activities began

in May 2016. This is the process of verifying that all of the subsystems, such as plumbing, electrical, fire, lighting and plant are operational.

Daniel Crawley, Lendlease Construction Manager, is enthusiastic about the project: "Though there is much work to be done, the diligence, dedication and hard work of the wider project team puts us in a very strong position to ensure the project is delivered safely and successfully in line with the original timeframe of December 2016."



Children add touch of colour to the site

When we think of construction sites, we tend to imagine the grey colour of concrete and the unappealing site where the construction takes place.

But thanks to our local schools and corporate volunteers, the Monash Children's Hospital work site was brightened up with colour and art.

Many local schools have generously supported Monash Children's Hospital in the past through various fundraising activities and awareness raising programs.

Pre-schools, primary and secondary schools participated in painting murals on the boards that are used to fence-in the construction site, also known as hoarding.

"The painting of the hoarding was a fantastic way for the local community, and particularly the local schools, to feel part of the project and contribute something special," Monash Children's Hospital Project Director, Kym Forrest said.

"It was such a wonderful experience for our students. They were so excited to participate and thoroughly enjoyed it," a Berwick Fields Primary School representative said.

The project was made possible through the support of our sponsors PPG Industries and Zouki Monash.



A true little fighter

By anyone's standards, seven-year-old Xavier Tilley is a real-life superhero.

Known as 'X-Man' to his friends and family, Xavier has been fighting for his life for more than a year after being diagnosed with a brain tumour in January 2015.

"It was the worst day of our lives," his mum, Rebecca, recalls.

"We were told our son had a brain tumour the size of a nectarine in his cerebellum. To say we were shocked would be an understatement. Our world was instantly turned upside down."

Two brain surgeries over two days removed most of the tumour, but left Xavier without the ability to speak, feed himself or walk.

As you can probably imagine, this was deeply upsetting for Rebecca and her husband, Michael.

The healing process after surgery was long and arduous. There were ups and downs. But thanks to the work of Monash Children's Hospital doctors and nurses, and the treatment and rehabilitation work that the financial support of the community made possible, Xavier began speaking again in June last year and in October went home with his family.

As Rebecca wrote at the time: "After nine long months, six weeks of radiation, four months of intense chemo, countless surgeries, blood transfusions and months of intense rehab, all while living at Monash Children's Hospital, we finally brought Xavier home.

"Xavier still has a long road to go - before he can be declared 'cancer-free'."

He will need another five to seven years of three-monthly MRI



scans to monitor his condition, and ongoing rehab to help him learn how to walk again and to continue improving his speech and development.

As you can probably imagine, his family's wish is a simple one:

"We'll just keep hoping and praying that we get a 'No Growth' report every time. That's all we can wish for. Xavier's great wish is to be able to walk and play with his friends again. We're going to do everything in our power to make that happen. And your support for our work will play a critical role in making that happen. Thank you so much for helping wishes like Xavier's come true.

"I'm so damn proud of our gorgeous boy and how he's gone about his treatment and dealt with it. It just melts my heart to know how brave and strong one seven-year-old boy can be!"

Gala helps dandelion wishes come true

After 12 months of planning, the inaugural Dandelion Wishes Charity Gala took place on Friday 26 February at Palladium at Crown to raise funds for the new Monash Children's Hospital.

Thanks to the generosity of more than 450 guests, \$225,000 was raised which will help provide additional equipment and services for sick children and their families at the new Monash Children's Hospital.

The night came to life with special performances by chart-topping artists Dami Im and Bella Paige; school performances and exciting live and silent auctions.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Lincoln and Veronique Wulff who organised this special event, with additional support from generous sponsors and volunteers, who are all passionate about our new children's hospital.



It is this kind of valued support and community philanthropy that helps Monash Children's Hospital continue to grow and thrive and be one of the best paediatric hospitals in Victoria.

Surgery a birthday gift



Hasina Shakirahmat with one-year-old Onaisah, who is recovering after surgery to rearrange her skull into the correct shape. Onaisah's skull (Inset) before the surgery. Main picture: NATHAN DYER

Monash Children's Hospital surgeons have performed "rare and radical" cranial surgery to give a little girl a new lease on life.

As reported in newspapers across Australia in May 2015, a team of surgeons undertook the complex task of correcting a deformity in little Onaisah's skull just in time for her first birthday.

The seven bones in a baby's skull usually don't fuse until the age of two, which allows the brain to grow. But in Onaisah's case the coronal suture, the joint running between the skull bones across the top of the head ear to ear, had fused before she was three months old.

Without the room to move and grow, the right side of her forehead was being flattened, the eye socket was being lifted and her nose shifted to the side.

Parents Hasina Shakirahmat and Abdul Hakin, who left Myanmar two years ago to come to Australia, were told surgical treatment for craniosynostosis involved removing part of the skull to reform it into the correct shape.

Onaisah's mother Ms Shakirahmat said correcting the congenital abnormality early was important for their family.

"When she grows up, if we don't do the surgery and she says, 'Mummy, why do I

look like this?', it would be very hard," Ms Shakirahmat said. "What will my answer be if I don't do this for her now?"

In a four-hour surgery a team of neuro and plastic surgeons removed the front portion of her skull and reconfigured it, placing it back in a different arrangement to give her head a more rounded shape. Professor Nick Freezer, Director of Monash Children's Hospital, said that without the surgery the cranial deformity could have caused pressure on the brain and caused intellectual disability.

Instead, little Onaisah is recovering well at home with her Mum and Dad.

Meet a little hospital hero

Heroes inspire those around them and three-year-old Reuben Beaton is one of those brave heroes. During his recent stay at Monash Children's Hospital, we asked a very cheerful and chatty Reuben a few little questions...

How are you feeling today Reuben?
Gooooood.

If you could have one wish today, what wish would that be? I want to be with my cat Tilby, she's at home and I miss her.

If you could have a super power, what would it be? I want to turn into cars! Oh and...trucks with big wheels!

What makes you happy? Tractors! And dinosaurs!

What makes you laugh? When I'm being tickled... And bees.

Reuben, what do you think we should build in the new Monash Children's Hospital? A car playground!





Storming Australia raises \$100,000 for children

Of the many wonderful efforts to raise money for the new Monash Children's Hospital, few will match the extraordinary physical and mental challenge undertaken by Scott Loxley.

On 15 June 2015, Scott walked back into Monash Medical Centre in Clayton to complete his epic mission to walk unaided around Australia in a Star Wars Stormtrooper costume.

Scott's journey took 433 days to complete, covering more than 15,000km through some of Australia's most extreme and unforgiving conditions.

He sweated through searing desert heat, trekked through wet and miserable conditions, and endured the humidity and severity of cyclone season in the north.

He was even bitten by an extremely poisonous King Brown snake, and saved only by his Stormtrooper costume.

Through that time, Scott dropped more than 20kg in body weight. He pushed a 100kg trolley to carry his supplies, wearing out more than 30 pairs of shoes and drinking some 2,000 bottles of water along the way.

Given that he was unaided throughout the walk, Scott even ate a variety of roadkill such as snakes, kangaroos, camels and more to keep up his protein levels where there were no shops to restock his supplies.



While the challenge itself is quite extraordinary, Scott's attitude and demeanour is what makes the effort truly inspirational. You will struggle to meet a man who is more down to earth and humble; he even looked a little uncomfortable at the large crowd and throng of media who had gathered to see him finish his mission.

"There were times out there where I thought I was ready to give up and throw it in," Scott admitted at the finish line. "Then I would remember what I was doing it for, and all the kids in the hospital who are going through a challenge far



greater than mine, and it's not hard to find that strength to keep going."

Scott's initial aim was to raise \$100,000 to help provide much-needed equipment for the new Monash Children's Hospital, and it was extremely pleasing when that figure was passed on the same day the walk came to an end.

From everyone associated with the new Monash Children's Hospital, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and admiration for Scott's incredible effort and generosity, with a special mention to his wife Sally for the sacrifices she made while Scott was away 'storming Australia'.

Meet the project director

Q&A with Kym Forrest, Director, Monash Children's Hospital Project

Your official title is General Manager of Monash Children's Hospital and Director of the Monash Children's Hospital Project. What does that mean to you personally?

I always say that I am in a privileged position. It's an emotional opportunity, it's a professional opportunity and it's a journey that has been a long time in the making.

I've been lucky enough to be part of that journey for a long time. I have been involved in that dream and that vision and been able to share that with many other passionate people. It's incredibly exciting and a wonderful position - whatever the title may be.

Given your involvement, what do you believe will be unique about the new Monash Children's Hospital?

Everything will be unique about the Monash Children's Hospital!

We want to create a hospital that is safe, efficient and delivers the best clinical care, in an environment that is also welcoming and respectful to patients and visitors.

We've paid particular attention to working with the children, their parents and their families to understand what they want to see, feel, hear and interact with when they come in, and this will be very important.

Clearly there are clinical elements that are fundamentally important, but we want to balance that with design features to create an environment that is welcoming to the patients.

We've had a lot of feedback about what it's like for a child in hospital - it can be frightening and they often miss home - and we have incorporated that into our planning.

There would presumably be a lot of people interested in how the new



Kym Forrest, Director,
Monash Children's Hospital Project

Monash Children's Hospital will look and operate - how do you decide what design elements to include?

There are architects and builders with expertise in how the hospital is physically constructed, and there are clinical experts to ensure quality healthcare in operation; however it is the community that will make the real difference and ultimately give that physical structure an identity.

We have a consumer advisory panel comprised of parents and grandparents, and we also have engaged directly with children of all ages through the current Monash Children's Hospital.

However we are also mindful that this new hospital is being built to service children from across Victoria. We already see a number of children from country areas and that will continue and grow and we need to reflect that in our new hospital.

It is an enormous project, is there one aspect to your role that you really enjoy?

It is hard work, but it also an extremely fun job where you enjoy coming into the office. No matter what challenges we face, the vision at the end - of creating this building and what it will do for sick children and families in need - is remarkable and gratifying. I think that aspect underpins all parts of my role.

So what are those challenges you face?

This is a project that people really engage with and want to help. People have big ideas and big expectations and so there is a challenge to manage and understand those ideas to capture the innovation. We then need to deliver that creativity in a manner that is consistent with our objectives and within our financial and logistical constraints.

Given all the consumer interaction, have you had any particularly unusual suggestions for the design?

We did have a request to put a waterslide around the perimeter of the building and

more than one person proposed the use of curly slides inside the hospital to make it easier to move between floors.

Are those suggestions specifically from children?

Not all of them... but definitely delivered with wonderful creativity.

With the construction well underway, and the vision coming to life in front of your eyes, is there one particularly memorable moment since taking on the role?

There have been a number really - I don't think I could offer just one.

The announcement that the Victorian Government would fund the project was incredibly exciting given all the work we had already undertaken.

Then there are landmark moments such as sitting with the architects with plans and drawings on the table that really bring the ideas closer to life, or the sod turning on 1 July 2014 when construction officially began.

I think that one of the great pleasures in this job is that there are many memorable moments that will continue into the future.

While you clearly love your role, everyone needs something to enjoy outside of work. What is your passion when you leave the office walls?

I'm a mad dog lover. I have an adopted greyhound who is just beautiful, and provides me that opportunity to get home and go for a stroll at the park, with a friendly face that doesn't ask me a challenging question!

They say you shouldn't work with animals or children and yet...

I clearly didn't listen [laughs], but I couldn't imagine anything better.

Kidsafe to join the new Monash Children's Hospital

Monash Children's Hospital is proud to announce that Kidsafe Victoria has joined as a partner and will have a permanent base within the exciting new development.

Kidsafe Victoria was founded in 1979 as part of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia. It is a non-profit, charitable organisation dedicated to the prevention of unintentional death, injury and associated disability to children, and so has a huge amount to offer the new hospital.

"We run a number of different awareness raising campaigns and programs, each of which brings us closer to our goal of making a safer world for kids," Kidsafe Victoria CEO, Melanie Courtney said.

"Our focus areas are road and home safety as these are where the greatest burden of injury lies."

The partnership means that Kidsafe that will have a permanent home, as well as direct access to parents and carers in Victoria's south east.

"It is a very exciting opportunity for us," Melanie said. "We will also be able to build on our existing relationship with Monash Children's Hospital to identify emerging causes of childhood injury and methods of prevention; just like we did in 2014 with our button battery campaign launch."

The new space will enable Kidsafe to engage directly with families, as well as respond to daily child safety enquiries. The space will be a welcoming environment, where parents and carers will be able to



come in any time to have a chat, as well as have a look at the Kidsafe safety information and available products. There will also be a small play area for children that will allow parents more time to get the information they need from the team.

"We are very excited about our new home and the strengthening of our partnership with Monash Children's Hospital and can't wait to be working more closely together to keep Victoria's children safe," Melanie said.

A letter from our founding patron

We are honoured to have Lady Marigold Southey AC as the Founding Patron of the Monash Children's Hospital.

Lady Southey has dedicated a lifetime of service to the community of Victoria, serving as Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria from 2001 to 2006, President of Philanthropy Australia from 2000 to 2006 and President of the Myer Foundation from 1997 to 2004.

Dear Friends,

It is always wonderful to be part of making wishes come true.

It was also exciting to see the new Monash Children's Hospital become a reality when the topping out ceremony occurred as we stood together on the roof-top just a few months after the first sod was turned. The hospital is now nearing completion and I encourage fellow philanthropists to experience a guided tour to appreciate the scope of this purpose-built state-of-the-art facility.

So many generous families, children, businesses and individuals continue to support this vital hospital for the children of Victoria. A most successful



Lady Southey tours the Monash Children's Hospital construction site in April 2016.

fundraiser was recently organised by a grateful family whose two precious children received life-saving care in our neonatal intensive care unit. We all send our grateful thanks to Lincoln and Veronique Wulff for the inaugural Dandelion Wishes Charity Gala and for creating the opportunity for others to also support our precious children.

As we work together to ensure this hospital will be truly great we are participating in a historical occasion for Victoria and seeing this wonderful vision become a reality.

**Marigold Southey AC
Founding Patron
Monash Children's Hospital**

Donate now

It takes a community to build a great children's hospital.

The Monash Health Foundation supports the wonderful work of the Monash Children's Hospital.

We invite you to consider a donation to help us provide the world's best healthcare for our most vulnerable - sick children and their families. Together we can improve the health of the children of Victoria.



To donate, fundraise or for more information, contact the Monash Health Foundation on 03 9594 2700 or email foundation@monashhealth.org or visit www.monashchildrenshospital.org

Donations to the Monash Children's Hospital are tax deductible.