



City of Whittlesea Community Hospital CCC meeting summary

4 April 2022

Community Consultative Committees (CCC) meetings provide a forum for the local community to participate in the planning and design of their community hospital. Meetings provide the mechanism through which community views are heard, emerging issues are monitored, and concerns and priorities of the community are voiced.

This report provides a summary of the feedback received at the City of Whittlesea Community Hospital Community Consultative Committee online meeting held on 4 April 2022.

Session summary

This design workshop was the second meeting for the City of Whittlesea CCC.

VHBA updated the CCC on the status and progress of the City of Whittlesea Community Hospital. Project architects, Design Inc, then led the group into a design workshop and presented the design vision and guiding principles for this project. The architects shared conceptual designs and examples and sought feedback from the CCC on the 'look and feel' of the community hospital, with a focus on patient, visitor and staff areas. These areas included:

- the facade and main entry
- internal colour palettes, materials and textures; and
- the external environment, green spaces and outdoor areas.


Who attended?

Chair: Danielle Green MP

CCC members: representatives from DPV Health, City of Whittlesea and local community members

Project team: representatives from Victorian Health Building Authority (Delivery, Communications and Engagement); Design Inc (project architects).

Community feedback

Design priorities (identified by the community)	What we heard
Accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present allied health services on the ground floor of the building – stairs and elevators are barriers for accessing care for people with ambulatory issues• Ensure ease of access – wide, level paths and walkways with minimal texture changes• Incorporate indirect lighting and a warm colour palette to help avoid over-stimulation for people with sensory differences• Consider establishing covered walkways from the car park, train station and bus stops for protection from the weather• Provide seating options without arms to consider people of all sizes and those who need support from a carer or support person• Present clear, easy-to-understand signage in key locations• Create visual wayfinding landmarks using colour or art to assist with directions• Consider a sub-waiting area for clients in distress
Cultural inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage with First Nations communities on interior design and ensure local Indigenous cultural heritage is reflected• Incorporate Indigenous planting to encourage interaction and learning about the restorative effects of connection to land• Include external artwork made by local Indigenous or culturally diverse groups• Raise flag poles with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags• Engage with local schools and community members who run Indigenous kitchen gardens
Connection to nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include warm textures and tones that reflect the nature and greenfield sites in Mernda• Retain river red gums on the site• Explore if local materials from the dig site can be used as part of the building or nature play• Use plants that are native to the area• Refer to community consultation report from the Mernda Rail Project for further insight into the community's connection to nature
Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide sufficient lighting and clear lines of sight to entrances and the car park to ensure patient and staff safety• Avoid stagnant water collection spots to prevent hazards, mosquitoes and other bugs• Consider layout for Family Violence Services and liaise with the Orange Door
Welcoming space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install signage outside the building so passers-by can see what services are on offer• Use natural light, warm tones and indoor plants to create a non-clinical environment that doesn't look like a hospital• Consider including a café
Family-friendly spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a space where children can be distracted and occupied while waiting• Include sensory activities, such as a small herb garden that children can touch and smell