



Anthony Capsalis
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Dear Mr Capsalis

Final comments of schematic design

Further to my report on the schematic design of the Tamworth Hospital stage 2 redevelopment forwarded on 23 April 2012 below are my final comments on documents provided on 15 May 2012.

Access from the allotment boundary

My initial report proposed that the requirements of the Premises Standards Performance Requirement DP1 could be met by providing suitable car-parking, car drop-off and public transport bus stops at locations that allowed for access to the pedestrian entrances to the new and refurbished buildings.

I did, however, recommend that if funds were available consideration should be given during the design development stage to establishing a pedestrian footpath (not a continuous accessible path of travel given the topographical issues) from the junction of Johnston and Dean Streets up to the new road that connects to the main entrance to the new building.

I also recommended identifying accessible car drop-off spaces with appropriate kerb-cuts outside the main entrance to the new building and Emergency Department. These spaces need to be addressed during the design development stage.

I understand that design changes have been made to allow for bus drop-off close to the entrance to the new building which will allow for a significant improvement in access for people using public transport.

Access between accessible buildings connected by a pedestrian link.

No further comment. Detailed design requirements will need to be addressed during the design development stage.

Accessible carparking

No further comment. Identification of the location of accessible carparking spaces consistent with the recommendations in my report of 15 May will need to be finalised during the design development stage.

Access from required accessible carparking spaces to accessible buildings

No further comment. Provision of continuous accessible paths of travel (including consideration of rest points) from accessible carparking spaces consistent with the recommendations in my report of 15 May will need to be addressed during the design development stage.

Accessible entrances

No further comment. Detailed design requirements will need to be addressed during the design development stage.

Stairways

No further comment. Detailed design requirements will need to be addressed during the design development stage.

Ramps

Earlier schematic design documents did not identify any ramps associated with the new work, however, SD-AR-DEP-SK-OH-002(02) Oral Health Option 2 would involve the construction of a ramp which would need to comply with access requirements. Detailed design requirements will need to be addressed during the design development stage if this option is pursued.

Passing and turning spaces

In my report of 15 May I identified 6 areas where the design of corridors could result in circulation space difficulties relating the passing and turning spaces.

I have been advised that corridors in those identified areas are to achieve 1800mm clear width which will be sufficient to meet circulation space requirements.

Circulation space generally will be further considered in the design development stage.

Accessible unisex toilets

Accessible unisex toilets compliant with AS 1428.1:2009 are not required in ward areas, however, I understand provision will be made for a number of accessible ensuite facilities consistent with the Australian Health Facilities Guidelines. These ensuite facilities throughout all ward areas will need to be assessed during the design development stage.

While it may be anticipated that staff using the male and female change areas identified on SD-AR-DEP-SK-SAMU-002[02]-2 will all work in the CSSD/Waste/Supply/Bulk store/Food services area they may also be used as a general staff change/shower facility. If this is the case further consideration of appropriate access features should be addressed during the design development stage.

While an accessible unisex toilet is provided in the waiting area of the Emergency Department (SD-AR-DEP-SK-ED-001[08]) once beyond reception in the treatment areas there are no accessible unisex toilets identified. Options for improving access in this area need to be considered during the design development stage.

A single accessible shower/toilet/change room services the Day Only Unit and Angio/Cath Unit (SD-AR-DEP-SK-PERI-001[7]). As it is a multi-use room and likely to be occupied for considerable periods of time by individuals consideration should be given to improving access in this area during the design development stage.

If Option 2 for the Oral Department is adopted (SD-AR-DEP-SK-OH-002[2]) one of the identified WC will need to be identified as an accessible unisex toilet during the design development stage.

Sanitary compartment suitable for use by people with ambulant disability (ambulant accessible toilets)

The number and location of ambulant accessible toilets, particularly in the Public non-ward areas will depend on whether or not toilet facilities are single sex male/female or unisex.

For example, in the Reception area of the Emergency Department SD-AR-DEP-SK-ED-001[08] there are 4 WC and one WC ACC. If 2 of the WC are designated for male and 2 designated for female then one of each of the male/female WC will have to be an Ambulant accessible toilet. If, however, all 4 WC are unisex then only one of the WC need be ambulant accessible.

Where public amenities are provided in separate male and female blocks such as in the main entrance area to the new building (SD-AR-DEP-SK-MEU-001[02]-1) one cubicle in each block will need to be ambulant accessible.

Details of numbers and location of ambulant accessible toilets will need to be addressed following receipt of further information concerning the distribution of gender specific or unisex toilets during the design development stage.

If Option 2 for the Oral Department is adopted (SD-AR-DEP-SK-OH-002[2]) one of the identified WC will need to be identified as an ambulant accessible during the design development phase.

Accessible unisex shower facilities

Ensuite facilities with accessible features consistent with the Australian Health Facilities Guidelines are to be provided in ward areas. These ensuite facilities will need to be identified in the design development stage of the project.

In my report of 23 April I recommended that while the Premises Standards did not require accessible unisex showers it would be good practice to provide such facilities at some locations, particularly for staff use.

An accessible unisex shower is identified within the Day Only Unit (SD-AR-NZ-02-02013[03]) which could also be used by staff – particularly staff working in the nearby offices.

Further consideration should be given to providing an accessible shower facility within each of the staff amenities rooms on the ground

floor of the new building (SD-AR-DEP-SK-SAMU-002[2]-1) during the design development stage.

Other access features

Detailed design requirements will need to be addressed for the following building elements during the design development stage:

- Hearing augmentation
- Doorways, doors and circulation space at doorways
- Door controls
- Luminance contrast around doorways
- Glazing on an accessway
- Accessible doorways and leaves at entrances
- Passenger lifts
- Signage
- Lighting
- Floor or ground surfaces
- Furniture and fittings
- Security issues

Yours sincerely

Michael Small