

Architectural Design Statement

General

The design of both Prison and Forensic Hospitals is composed of simple forms with considered detailing to create a pleasing aesthetic. The predominantly single and two storey forms are broken down in scale through a modulated roof form and the use of materials. Wherever possible façades are divided into a masonry/concrete base, light weight cladding and floating roof except where a high security enclosure defines otherwise. This philosophy of reducing scale through roof form and materials helps to create a domestic scale.

The design of both the Prison and Forensic Hospital facilities has taken account of the need for a safe secure environment for patients, staff and visitors.

To achieve this objective, the design allows for staff to be in close contact with the patients for much of the time. In the Forensic Hospital facility some patients are given free access to the internal courtyard space and are not constrained unnecessarily. The prison hospital on the other hand substantially restricts prisoner movement and is controlled by DCS staff.

The difference in operating philosophies between the prison hospital and the Forensic Hospital has resulted in a slightly different approach to the design of building fabric. The construction of the prison hospital is influenced more by the design requirements of secure environments in correctional facilities whereas the design of the buildings and fittings in the Forensic Hospital more closely mirrors the design of typical hospital wards and mainstream integrated mental health units.

Forensic Hospital

In the case of the Forensic Hospital, a normalising environment is created by selecting domestic materials, setting the buildings into the landscape and attuning the scale of built form to the pedestrian.

Internal and external areas have been designed to promote a healing environment. As far as possible proportions, materials, finishes, colours and details follow familiar, non-threatening building types. The buildings incorporate a hierarchy of spaces that balances the need for a high level of security with the needs of the patients for reasonable privacy and dignity. It is acknowledged that many of the patients will come to regard their building as 'home' for long periods of time. Some patients may never leave the facilities such as the LSU.

As much as possible of the existing Prison Hospital external wall is to be retained, and new perimeter security walling has been designed to harmonise with it. The wall will be constructed

from coloured precast panels with an integral patterned finish. The colour will reflect that of the existing brick masonry wall.

The key architectural design drivers for the Forensic Hospital have been:

1. Create a state-of-the-art maximum security forensic mental health facility;
2. Embody world's best practice as it affects the design and operation of a health facility for the treatment and care of forensic patients;
3. Encompass current health facility guidelines and practices as they affect a healthy facility and provide 'patient focused' mental health care accommodation to meet the increasing growth in demand for these services;
4. Provide for future flexibility in facilities technology and management;
5. Provide a clinical environment that will attract and retain high quality staff and enhance the environment for teaching and research;
6. The Forensic Hospital has been designed to engender a patient environment of domestic scale and appearance contained within a necessarily highly secure perimeter wall;
7. Patient areas are focused to the internal landscaped parkland rather than towards any enclosing walling;
8. The perimeter walls of the containment will be visible but aesthetically minimally significant;
9. Activities and staff not involved in daily contact with patients are accommodated outside the secure perimeter wall;
10. Visual impact from the residential areas has been minimised;
11. Heritage aspects of the existing buildings has been considered in maintaining the existing view corridors to heritage items; to minimise impact of the new walling, new trees to be planted along the Anzac Parade frontage of the facility will shield some of the extent of the wall and break up its otherwise visual continuity.
12. The perimeter wall has been designed with the use of contemporary materials but with regard to the texture and colours of existing building fabric; it is intended that the finished colour of the enclosing wall will be similar in colour to the perimeter wall of the existing Prison Hospital.
13. The Justice Health Operations building represents the corporate image of Justice Health and as such is designed as a contemporary office building. This building also incorporates the entry to the Forensic Hospital, and this component of the structure has been designed to be non-threatening and deliberately unlike any typical 'gatehouse' of its correctional-facility neighbour. Clearly separate and distinct entry points are defined for the Justice Health Operations and Forensic Hospital.

Prison Hospital

The Prison Hospital design attempts to provide a healing environment in a facility that requires a high degree of security. Landscaped zones and courtyard areas allow light and air to penetrate between the buildings and provide recuperative spaces for patients accommodated within the hospital buildings.

The key Architectural design drivers for the Prison Hospital have been:

1. Providing a healing environment within landscaped areas and courtyard spaces accessible to patients for access to light and air within a necessarily secure perimeter enclosure;
2. No development within the Prison Hospital is to have vision into the SPC;
3. All entry into the combined Prison Hospital/ MMTC is via the Gatehouse;
4. The perimeter wall of the Prison Hospital is necessarily of a highly secure construction but finishes will be attuned to existing building fabric within the Long Bay prison campus.