



PENRITH-MENTAL HEALTH STAGE 3A APPLICATION

Landscape Design Statement

The Landscape Design responds to the Project Theme of “Healing through Regeneration”. The overarching concept is for a fluid landscape that is “retained” by the new buildings. The internal landscape is not so much a series of courtyards, but a continuous landscape where the courtyard space is residual – providing a sense that the patients and staff are surrounded by landscape.

The healing environment is created by verdant landscapes, richly planted with colour texture and scent, with species selected to also prevent toxicity and physical harm and to be low-maintenance.

Entry statement

As an expression of the overarching design principle “Healing through Regeneration” the equal access building entry is easily approached from all aspects of the street. The steps and ramp are intersected by a symbolic grove of pollarded trees. Pollarding is a practice of rejuvenation, where all the branches of a tree are cut back to about 3m off the ground. Pollarded trees tend to live longer than trees of the same species that are not pollarded. Therein their manipulated form speaks symbolically of treatment and healing/rejuvenation.

Courtyards Design Principles

The courtyards will have a familiar, organic character with a tapestry of planting and varying degrees of meandering (or directed) paths, in accordance with the level of treatment for the respective courtyard.

A variety of seating opportunities are provided, creating private / passive spaces, or for communal gathering. Each of these seating spaces are associated with a variation in the adjacent planting character so that the space is easily identified.

A generous buffer planting is always provided between bedroom windows and the communal courtyard space. Planting will be generally low-maintenance, low water-use species, with a mix of native and exotic species providing a palette of varying colour, form, texture and scent.

SHMOPS

In addition to the general courtyard design principles, the reduced level of care required to the SHMOPS courtyards creates the opportunity for greater richness in the planting palette, the paving materials palette and the inclusion of water features.

ACUTE

The site plan is generally less meandering in these courtyards, ensuring clarity of movement and orientation. The planting is simplified and paving materials muted. There are no proposed water features.

HDU

The site plans for the HDU courtyards ensure clear surveillance and focuses on safety for patients and staff. Planting will be minimal, relying on benign, regenerative native grass species.