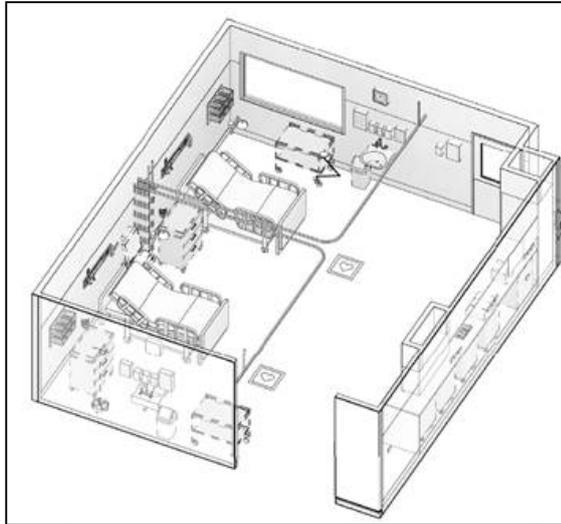
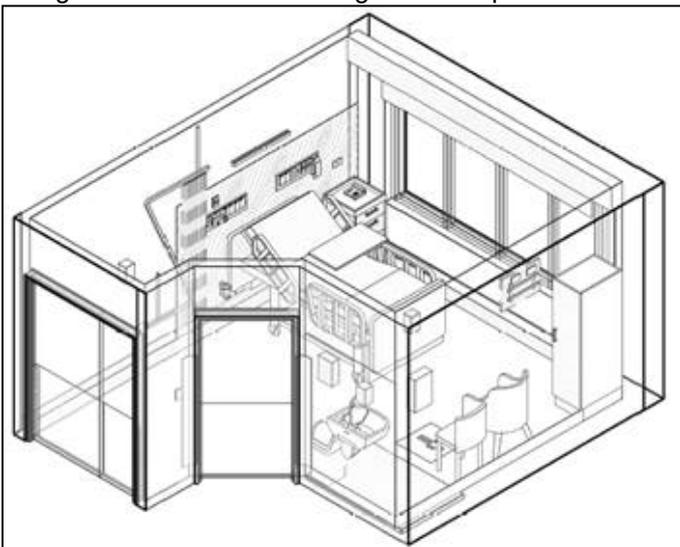




BARHAM MPS—DETAILED DESIGN GROUPS UNDERWAY



3D images of the double and single acute inpatient rooms.



The next stage of the Barham Multipurpose Service (MPS) is progressing with detailed design groups reviewing the specifications of every room in the new MPS.

It also includes room and building layouts, the development of the final façade of the building and complete lists of technology, fixtures, furnishings and equipment.

The design groups for the Barham MPS met in July and will continue meeting in August.

The detailed design groups consist of Barham MPS staff, Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) Executives, representatives from the Barham Local Health Advisory Committee (LHAC) and Health Infrastructure as well as architects, planners and project managers.

Murrumbidgee Local Health District Regional General Manager Rosemary Garthwaite reiterated that during construction forecast to begin early 2018, all current services in the Barham MPS will be maintained.

“We are building an MPS but we are also an operational health service and I want to assure the community we are open for business throughout the build,” Ms Garthwaite said.



Above: Every space is examined in the detailed design groups.



Above: Barham residents Joy Maffescioni and Joy Eagle looking at the plans for the Barham MPS.



NEW BARHAM MPS MANAGER

LOIS OPIE

What is your background?

I am a Registered Nurse with a Graduate Certificate in Paediatrics and a Masters of Nursing. I completed my Graduate year in Warracknabeal before moving to Darwin. In Darwin I worked mainly in Paediatrics, but I have worked in most areas including Intensive Care Unit and Special care Nursery.

Career highlights so far?

I have been the Nursing Unit Manager (NUM) of a 15-bed Paediatric Infectious Diseases and High Dependency Unit for 16 years (one of two paediatric units). I introduced many changes during this time and developed protocols which, along with a focus on staff education and skill development, led to expanding the high dependency role of the ward.

I was also extensively involved in the planning and development of a new paediatric floor at Royal Darwin Hospital. This was a completely new design on an existing floor where we knocked down all internal walls and started again with the same planning process currently underway at Barham.

For the past eight months I have worked as the afterhours manager for Royal Darwin Hospital. In this role I managed a range of issues including: staffing for nursing, medical transfers, guidance with clinical issues, incidents and complaints, human resource issues, all emergency situations (member of Resus and Rapid response team), building maintenance and patient flow-bed management.

What does your new role involve?

It involves the overall management of the facility including clinical, staffing/HR, infrastructure and financial needs.

What are you most looking forward to?

I'm looking forward to participating in the development of the new building.

What do you think will be some of the challenges in your new role?

My first challenge is getting to know everyone and familiarising myself with the Barham MPS and NSW Health. Even though I have extensive management experience, the systems are all different.

What will be the benefits of the new MPS at Barham?

The facility will be a more pleasant environment for patients that will better cater to the needs of the community. Great care has gone into the design to ensure it meets both current and future community needs.

Have you been involved in the detailed design meetings and what did you take away from those meetings?

I was pleased and excited to see the plans are well underway, the staff and community are involved in the planning and that the needs of the community have been well considered in the process.

Why did you and your family choose Barham to come and live and work?

My husband Rod is a high school teacher and grew up in Cohuna and has many relatives living in the area. My parents live in Warrnambool and my sister lives in Melbourne. We have been wanting to move to the area for some time to be closer to family. I have two adults son who are remaining in Darwin at present. We have a farm at Gunbower.

Great care has gone into the design to ensure it meets both current and future needs.