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Hume Region small rural health services student placement accommodation

Background and context

The accommodation available to undergraduate students completing placement at Alexandra Hospital has to date relied upon the availability of a small onsite flat. This flat is always under high demand and availability was poor. Students had difficulty finding suitable and affordable accommodation locally. Some students have had to find accommodation in surrounding towns or travel daily to complete their placement.

The conversion of a former office space, also once being nurses accommodation, was proposed to enable accommodation for three students with their own private bedroom, a shared lounge, kitchen, bathroom facilities and a single bedroom unit at one end for use when only a single student is attending for placement.

The accommodation is located with a two-minute walk to hospital facilities and only a ten-minute walk to local shopping facilities.

Project objectives and expected impacts

The project objective was to provide affordable and suitable accommodation for undergraduate students in close proximity to the hospital facility. The availability of such accommodation will enable more students to attend placement at Alexandra and ensure they enjoy comfortable accommodation.

Project activities

Structural changes included a full-sized kitchen and disabled access bathroom as well as separate shower and toilet facilities. Cosmetic renovations were applied to all areas which included painting and floor coverings.

Project management

* Governance: Alexandra Hospital, Board of Management
* Alexandra District Hospital contact: Heather Byrne
* Project Manager: Rod Sloan

Architect: David Aslop

Project performance against stated deliverables

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| Project activity | Project deliverable/target | Date due | Status (i.e., complete, not complete |
| Brief architect |  | 31 May 2012 | Complete |
| Design drawings |  | 31 July 2012 | Complete |
| Appoint project manager |  | 31 August 2012 | Complete |
| Prepare tender documents | Tender advertised | 20 September 2012 | Complete, builder appointed |
| Obtain building permit | Building permit | 20 September 2012 | Complete |
| Building works | Works completed | 30 April 2013 | Complete |
| Selection of furniture | Furniture in place | 26 June 2013 | Complete |
| Painting | Complete internal and external painting | 28 June 2013 | Complete |
| Installation of new floor coverings | Install to all areas | 27 June 2013 | Complete |
| Install new kitchen to single flat | Install new kitchen to single flat area | 06 July 2013 | Complete |

* The project has achieved all objectives. All works have been closely supervised to ensure completion by the arrival of students on 7 July 2013.
* The renovation includes the completion of a communal kitchen and lounge area, disabled access bathroom, shower and toilet facilities. The accommodation includes three separate lockable bathrooms.
* Lockers are provided for valuables and a study room with a desk and chair is available.
* The individual flat can cater for one student with small lounge, kitchen and bathroom.

The project has completed all objectives and the accommodation is comfortable and welcoming for students.

Project outcomes

The project enables Alexandra District Hospital to provide student placement and affordable onsite accommodation for up to four students at a time. The increased availability of accommodation makes placement at Alexandra District Hospital for students of various fields more attractive.

Evaluation

The small capital and equipment project has enabled both structural and cosmetic renovations of an aged building and the transformation to modern and comfortable accommodation to be achieved.

The project has run both on-time and on-budget and all aspects were completed.

Conclusion

This grant has enabled the total transformation of the ‘old nurse’s accommodation’ to a modern, safe and comfortable student accommodation facility that will benefit students on placement well into the future.