

## Kerang District Hospital capacity building project

**Date completed: May 2013**

### Background and context

The Kerang District Hospital upgrade saw the demolition of the old nursing home, which was originally used to accommodate students on placement. No provision for this accommodation was included in the upgrade. This project has seen the renovation of an old convent into student accommodation complete with student study centre.

### Project objectives and expected impacts

- Provide adequate student accommodation to cope with the increase in clinical placement activity in 2012–13 and beyond
- Provide adequate study/research facilities to cope with the increase in clinical placement activity in 2012–13 and beyond
- Increase clinical placement capacity
- Increase overall student satisfaction with the clinical placement experience at Kerang District Hospital.

It was expected that the increased capacity to accommodate clinical students would enable increased clinical placement activity and the education room would provide a better quality clinical placement experience for students.

### Project activities

- Due to the size of the facility, the fire safety requirements were extensive. Wormalds were contracted to complete fire safety works.
- There were delays in the Shire building approval process initially and the builder was required to wait for the necessary approvals.
- As the building was an old convent there were many single rooms this made the conversion to student accommodation easier as the structure was sound and the single rooms did not require size change.
- The bathrooms had to be fully adapted and include invalid facilities.
- The kitchen was very old and was completely removed and replaced with a modern purpose built kitchen to accommodate the number of students who would be using the facility.
- Access ramps have been constructed to allow for students with disabilities.
- The building was fully renovated and is of high quality, there has been carpet laid to make the rooms comfortable and warm. Split-systems have been fitted to all rooms to provide heating and cooling.

- Heat pump hot water systems have been fitted for energy efficiency and due to the size of the building it was required to fit four units.
- Furnishings were purchased locally and are good quality – the old chapel has been converted into a study space and it was possible to save the parquet flooring and have it resurfaced.
- An open day was held to allow the community to view the changes prior to occupation by students.
- The Board of Management oversight of the project and were present for the open day.

## Project management

This project was managed by the Director of Nursing and the executive management team at the Kerang District Hospital. The funds were used in conjunction with funds approved to be contributed by the Kerang District Hospital Board. The Board of Management understands the value of student placement and the benefits to Kerang District Health assisting existing staff by stimulating discussion and enhancing the learning culture of the organisation. Clinical placement gives the students opportunities to learn and experience the services provided by a small rural hospital. As an organisation that provides a graduate nurse program it gives students a chance to observe the service and the staff a chance to meet potential graduate nurses.

The project was completed on time and within budget. The project team and oversight remained consistent throughout the project period.

The Board of Management is pleased to have received the funding as it allowed the project to go ahead and for a quality facility to be provided for the use of the students

## Project performance against stated deliverables

Project activity	Project deliverable/target	Due date	Status
Planning permit Shire	Granted	July 2012	Completed
Tender documents and applications advertised	Awarded by Board of Management	August 2012	Completed
Renovations to student accommodation	Completion	December 2012	Completed, March 2013
Purchase of learning aides including computers, desks, bookshelves etc.	Delayed due to delays in planning permission	2013	Delivered, May 3013

- The facility is well appointed comfortable and safe for students.
- The cost charged for accommodation has been kept low to be affordable at \$10.00 per night.
- There are cooking facilities and the students make full use of the kitchen this allows all cultures to make provision for their normal meals
- The learning space is separate for the lounge areas of the home and encourages learning and research as it is equipped with computers and internet access via Wi-Fi. Book shelves for are provided for textbooks and journals.
- There are fifteen beds available for students – some shared but generally single rooms.
- There are two lounges to allow differing activities.

## Project outcomes

The Project has provided modern comfortable accommodation for students while on placement in Kerang. The learning space has the capacity to be used for many purposes simulation learning research, linking with the universities and as a teaching area.

The new accommodation was needed, as the old nurses home is to be demolished and a new ambulance station will be built in its place during the construction of a new aged care facility, renovation of the acute hospital and relocation of Radiology, Pathology and Theatre Suite.

## **Evaluation**

- The funding allowed the organisation to continue to provide student accommodation close to the Health Service that is safe and affordable. Feedback from the students at this stage is verbal and has all been positive, we intend to provide opportunities for more formal feedback in the form of questionnaires.
- The project did run to budget, delays were clerical such as building approval.
- The key learning is: that it is possible to provide accommodation that is safe and affordable by working in partnership with others and that cooperation is key to achieving goals.

## **Conclusion**

Thank you very much for the opportunity to achieve such a great outcome for students and to have a facility that will welcome and assist with the future recruitment of new staff who come to Kerang for clinical placement.