The Herston Quarter Redevelopment Project: Delivering a World-Class Health Precinct

The Queensland Government has undertaken a market process to progress the masterplanned redevelopment of the Herston Quarter. Ahead of Health Facilities Design and Development taking place at Australian Healthcare Week 2017, Kate Copeland, Executive Director, Corporate Systems and Infrastructure Metro North Hospital and Health Service, outlines the project vision and delivery model, the current stage of the project and the lessons learned from the journey to date.

Can you give a brief overview of the vision for the Hertson Quarter Project?

Kate: The Herston Quarter is located on the Hertson Health Campus and one of the key items for the vision was to have a facility that complemented the existing services on the campus.

We have the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, which is one of the largest hospitals in Queensland, a University presence with the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology, and we also have the Queensland Institute of Medical Research.

The intent was to complement and expand the range of services available on the campus. The site became available because the Children's Hospital had relocated to a new site when the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital opened. We therefore had about a five hectare site that was available for redevelopment.

What stage of the project are you currently at?
Kate: The project is being led by Queensland Treasury on behalf of the Queensland Government, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service has been leading the procurement process and we're just about to reach contractual close. The intent is that we'll finalise the documents just before Christmas 2016 and then go through the formal process of signoff in early 2017.

The project is being handed over to Metro North for the delivery phase of the project, so there's a transition plan in process between Queensland Treasury and Metro North, which will occur at contractual close.

What areas will you be focusing on in 2017 to ensure the project is delivered on time?

Kate: There are three key stages. The first stage, which is one of the most important things for Metro North, is the delivery of the new hospital building which includes a specialist rehabilitation and ambulatory care centre. This facility will have 100 rehabilitation beds across a wide range of specialties, together with an ambulatory care centre, which will be primarily surgical and endoscopy services, and will include a 32bed surgical ward. This is one of our key focus areas and it is to be located on the site of the old Children's Hospital.

What strategies are you using to ensure effective stakeholder engagement and collaboration throughout the process?

Kate: It's been quite an engaging process. The redevelopment is being run by a State Government Department on behalf of another State Department, in conjunction with the Hospital and Health Services. This has necessarily involved quite broad stakeholder engagement.

In addition, there has been a lot of clinician engagement because there's a lot of interest in the provision of a new hospital building for Metro North. The other stakeholders on the campus - the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Berghofer Centre, the UQ, and the QUT - are all partners in the Herston Health Precinct. They are also vitally interested in what might happen on the campus. The intent is to complement the existing health and education and research activities, as well as provide a range of commercial activities.

What steps are you taking to future-proof your facility for further expansion?

Kate: The project is a master plan site, which is intended to be developed over a 10-year period. We have a clear vision of what's intended now, but our expectation is that it will continue to grow and evolve over that period, and there's opportunity for that to happen. Five hectares is a reasonably large site, so it does give some provision for that sort of adaptive reuse over time.

What are some of the major lessons learned throughout the project journey so far?
Kate: The key thing we're learning is that there are ways for the public sector and the private sector to engage and work better together. This is a new model for Queensland. This approach hasn't been done before in this type of way. It has some similarities to some of the public-private partnerships (PPP), but it also is different from a traditional PPP hospital. It will provide a useful role model for ways in which public sector entities can look at working with the private sector to develop sites.

What is the value of attending Australian Healthcare Week 2017?
Kate: The value of Australian Healthcare Week is the combination of the presentations and the discussions with other participants and speakers during the event itself. Australian Healthcare Week provides an opportunity to concentrate a whole lot of people in one place at one time and provides a unique opportunity to discuss issues with them.

To learn more, join Kate at the Health Facilities Design and Development Summit taking place at Australian Healthcare Week 2017 where she will further explore:

- A commercial redevelopment opportunity connected to one of Australia's leading health precincts
- Exploring the procurement process and delivery project at no net cost to the state
- A diverse health community delivering health and hospital services, aged care, research, education and supporting and complementary uses
- Delivering a 'wellbeing community' that creates places for people to live, learn, work, research and thrive
- An intergenerational supported community where people of all ages and abilities connect and interact
- Examining the anticipated pain points and delivery challenges during the project life-cycle

For more information visit http://hfdd.austhealthweek.com.au or call +61 2 92291000 or email enquire@iqpc.com.au

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