



TAMWORTH MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY CONCEPTS

DECEMBER 2022



WE ARE YERRABINGIN. WE WALK TOGETHER.

YERRABINGIN

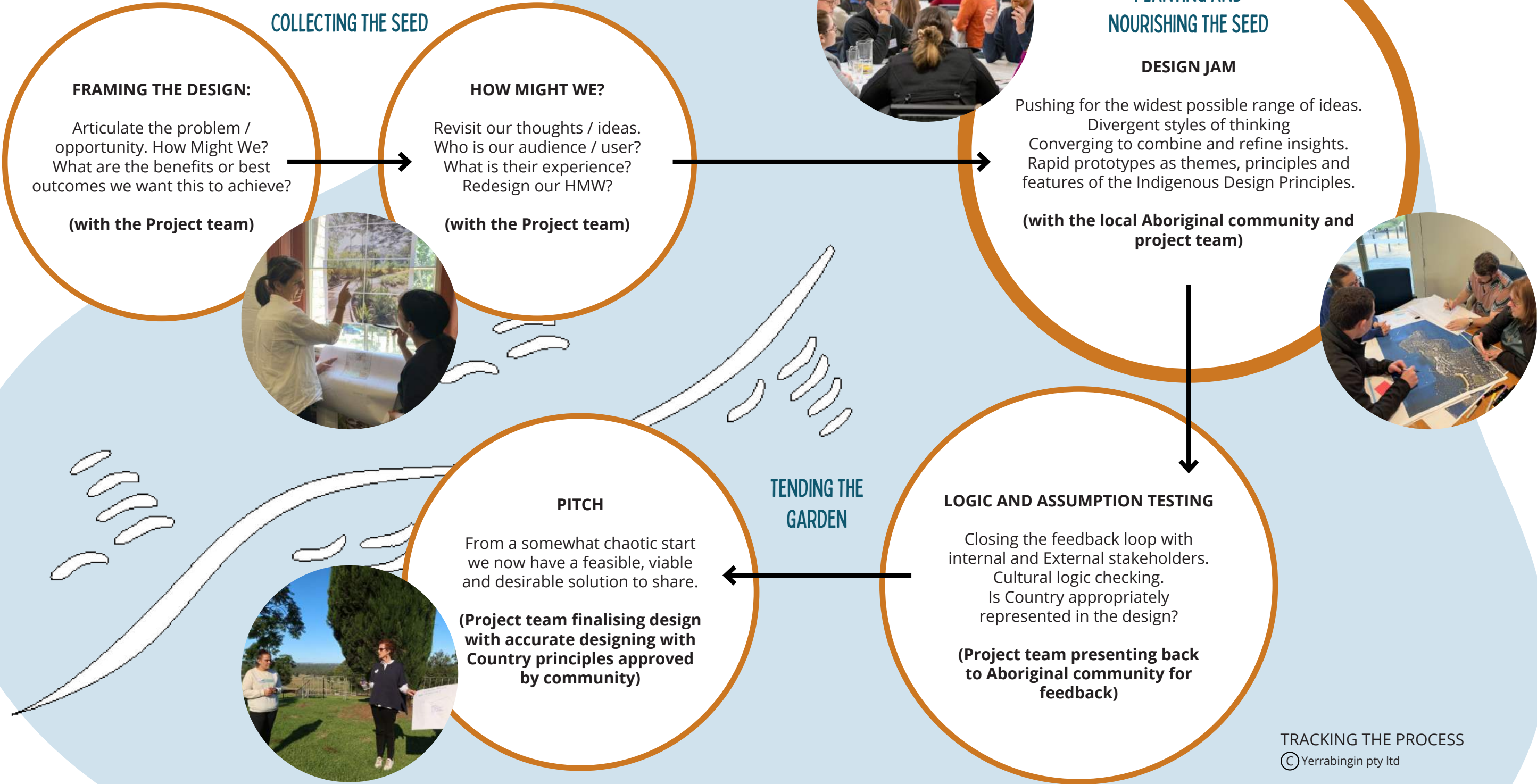
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge Country, the Cultural Landscape that we are working upon, We acknowledge the custodianship of its people and the privilege and responsibility to Connect with Country.

We acknowledge the Kamilaroi/Gomeroi people and their ongoing connection to culture, lands and waters and their valuable contribution to the community. We recognise and acknowledge the surrounding clans to the North, South, East and West whilst honouring and celebrating their Elders past, present and emerging.

WANGGANI DHAYAR (LISTEN TO COUNTRY)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

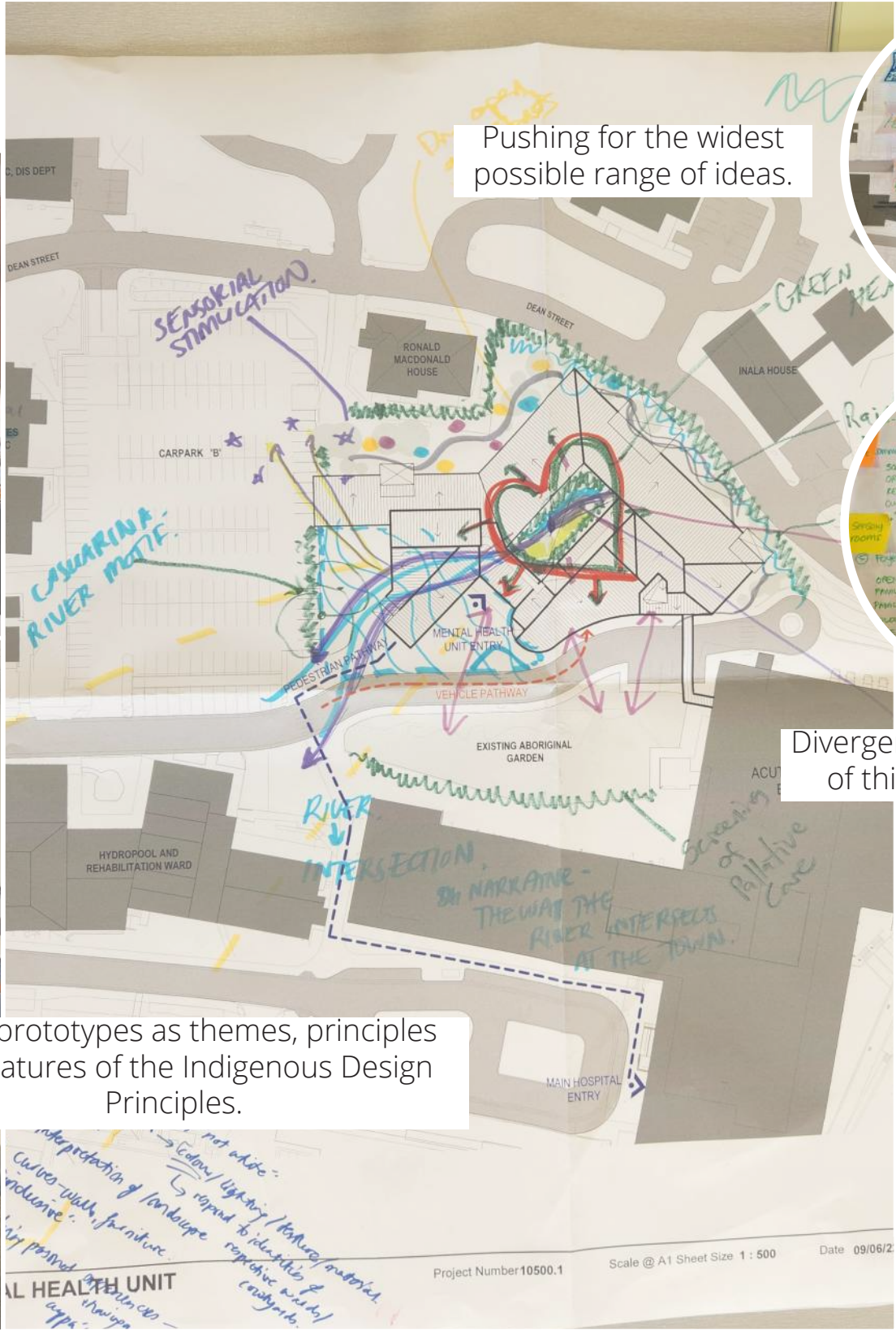


DESIGN JAM

November 30th, 2022



Converging to combine and refine insights.



Pushing for the widest possible range of ideas.



Divergent styles of thinking



Rapid prototypes as themes, principles and features of the Indigenous Design Principles.

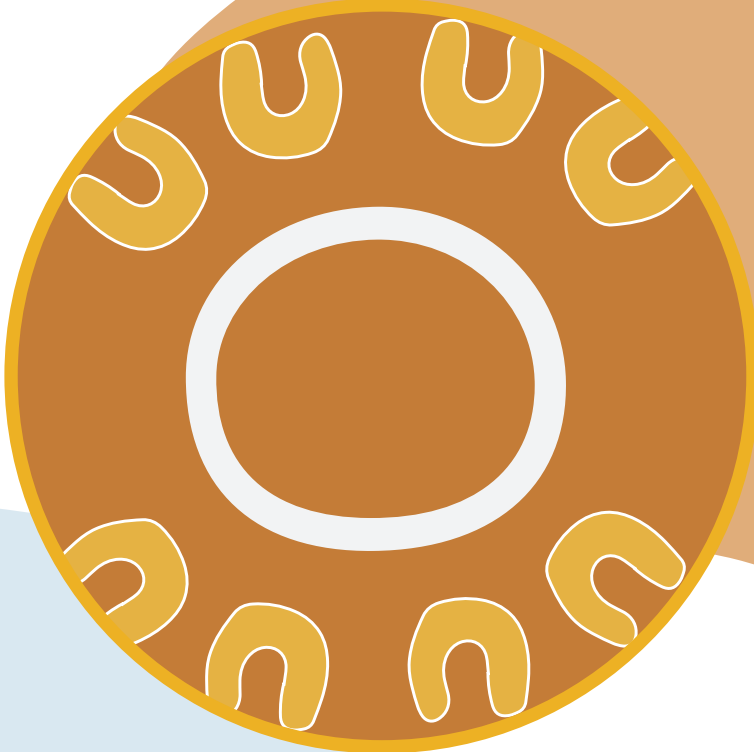


KEY THEMES



CONNECTION TO SKY

Connection to the sky, from sunrise and sunset to the bright stars in the night sky. Connection to the ancestors and a world outside our own, bringing back perspective and wonder.



CULTURAL CARE

The journey of life and seeking care. Creating spaces for people to come to for reflection or with family and friends. Ensuring a safe and welcoming design inside and out that people want to be part of.



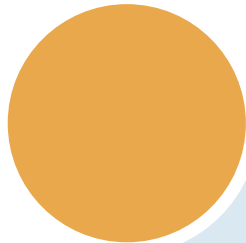
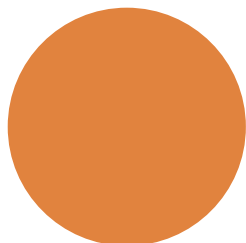
COUNTRY AS HEALING

Learning from Country and further becoming physically and mentally well. Enhancing the senses to create experiences, being inspired by the forms, colours and textures of Country to bring the outside in and enhance the overall unit.

CONNECTION TO SKY

Connection to the sky can be expressed in a variety of ways. Firstly acknowledging the beautiful tones and colours of the sunrises and sunsets can be explored within the unit, creating a unique connection to site.

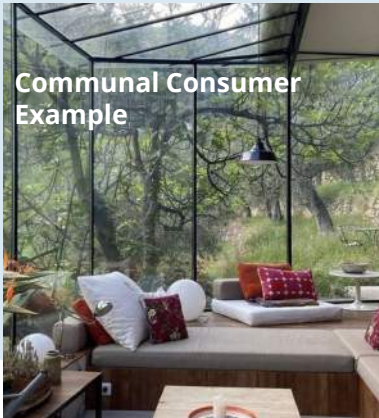
The building itself is to have views of the mountains beyond and their connected sky line. This will create a sense of place and knowing where you are on Country. Openness within the unit with spaces open to sky and large windows will allow these views to happen throughout the design.



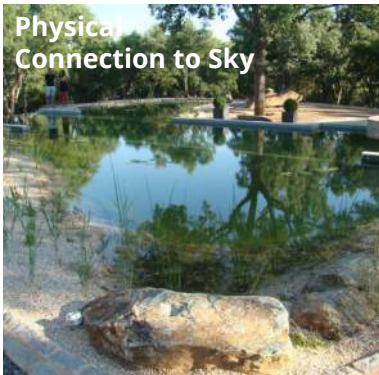
Foyer Example



Visitor Room Example



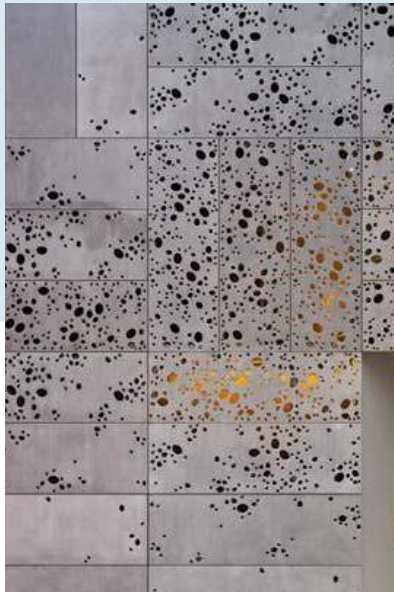
Communal Consumer Example



Physical Connection to Sky



Uncle Len Waters shared about First Nations cultural connection to the sky and stars serving as a reminder of the light within and around us. This story had poignant meaning in a mental health context and can be represented through light installations.



Similarly, stars can be represented through patternation and shadow play. Highlighting the significance of stars during the day.

CULTURAL CARE

The journey to wellness has various stages and can look different for each person. This place needs to be comforting and accomodating for people of all cultural backgrounds. For First Nations People this can look like cultural visibility, resources and activities.



When family come to the unit there needs to be a safe and welcoming place for them to come to, in large or small groups, in or outside of the hospital. First Nations and culturally competant staff will aid this.

Culturally informed wayfinding motifs throughout the site, with a particular focus on the link bridge that crosses over from emergency to the mental health unit. Motifs should be on the floor, so that patients processing what is happening to them have somewhere to look and find comfort.



Spaces in the landscape



Bush foods, medicinal and resource plants to be included in the planting scheme. Traditional medicines from the garden can be used in conjunction with other treatments.



Using resource plants to create artwork to leave behind as a legacy, or take home as a memento.



COUNTRY AS HEALING

Contribution and participation builds connection to place. It develops our sense of purpose and responsibility to Country.

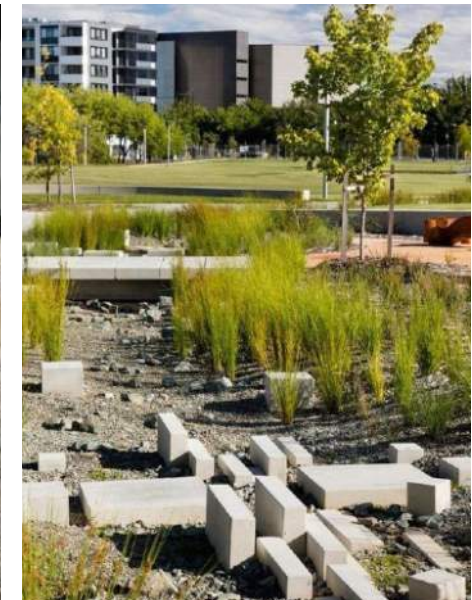
In return for caring for and enhancing Country, she heals us by allowing us to learn, be mindful and practice community.

This can be executed in design by consumers actively creating and maintaining garden spaces.

Utilising seasonal planting schemes will enable ongoing stimulation of consumer's senses. They will be exposed to new smells, colours, forms and texture at different times of the year. This is also an opportunity to learn about traditional seasons.



Courtyards and pathways with resting nodes to sit amongst nature and listen to Country. These places should promote stillness and relaxation, whilst also providing multisensory options for users, textures to touch, flowers to smell and bush foods to eat.



Water can be safely incorporated onto the site through fountains, dry creek beds or rain gardens. The sound of running water can have a soothing effect and landscape elements that change with the weather will provide long term users with additional stimulation, with new things to observe throughout their stay.

Through the inclusion of habitat for non-human kin, patients can become familiar with their movements and habits, deepening their connection to Country.

MAPPED CONCEPTS



Community contribution in the planting out of the site. As well as tours and workshops in relation to bush tucker, medicinal and resource plants used throughout the landscape.

Ridgeline and Gully Planting



The movement of water from the ridgelines down into the gully's and the changing ecologies associated with that.

White box grassy woodlands, with yellow box and Blakely's red gum on lower slopes. Rough-barked apple and yellow box on flats. River oak and some river red gum along major streams. Patches of red stringybark and red ironbark on steeper slopes in the east. Silver-leaved ironbark on basalt caps, white cypress pine and kurrajong on stony areas in the west and north. Very large grass trees on serpentinite.



Creating a clear sense of direction and connection to place. People feel safe and welcome in this space before entering and get a sense of relief when leaving.



Shelter with patterning over this walkway to create a sense of calm for people walking or looking up from a hospital bed



Providing views out to the day and night sky. An opening which people can come to and connect with Sky Country. Opportunity for pathway interpretation also for wayfinding



Wildflower Planting

Enhancing the senses through use of wildflowers. Encourages habitat for pollinators and is beautiful to look at.



Riparian species with water elements



Opportunity for storytelling through shadow play on the link bridge.



Language and Wayfinding elements.



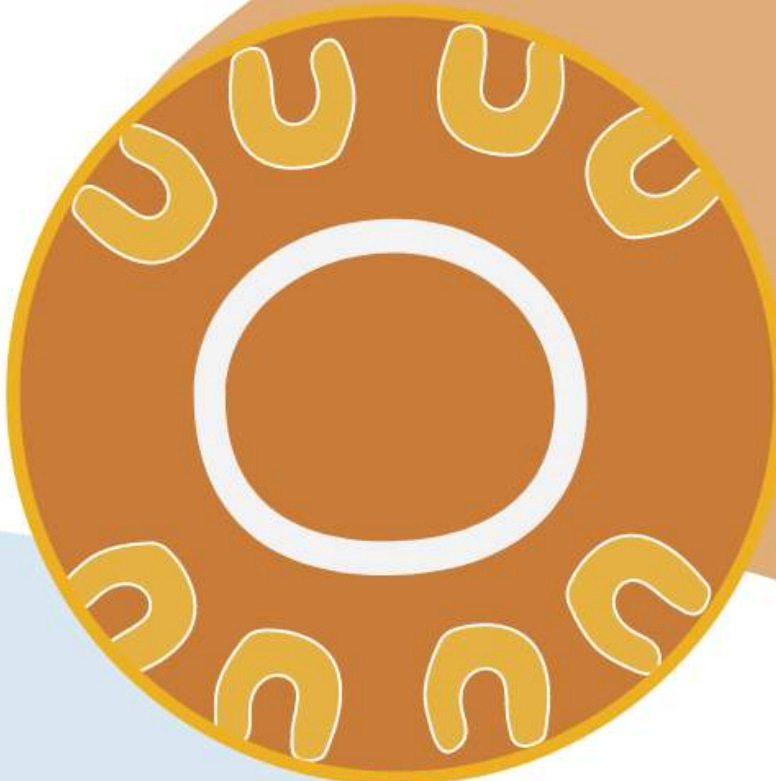
YERRABINGIN

KEY THEMES



CONNECTION TO SKY

star constellations
shadow play



CULTURAL CARE

Safe & welcoming family spaces
cultural informed wayfinding



COUNTRY AS HEALING

connection to country
views

LEVEL 1

ADOLESCENT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH
MAIN ENTRY AND LOBBY

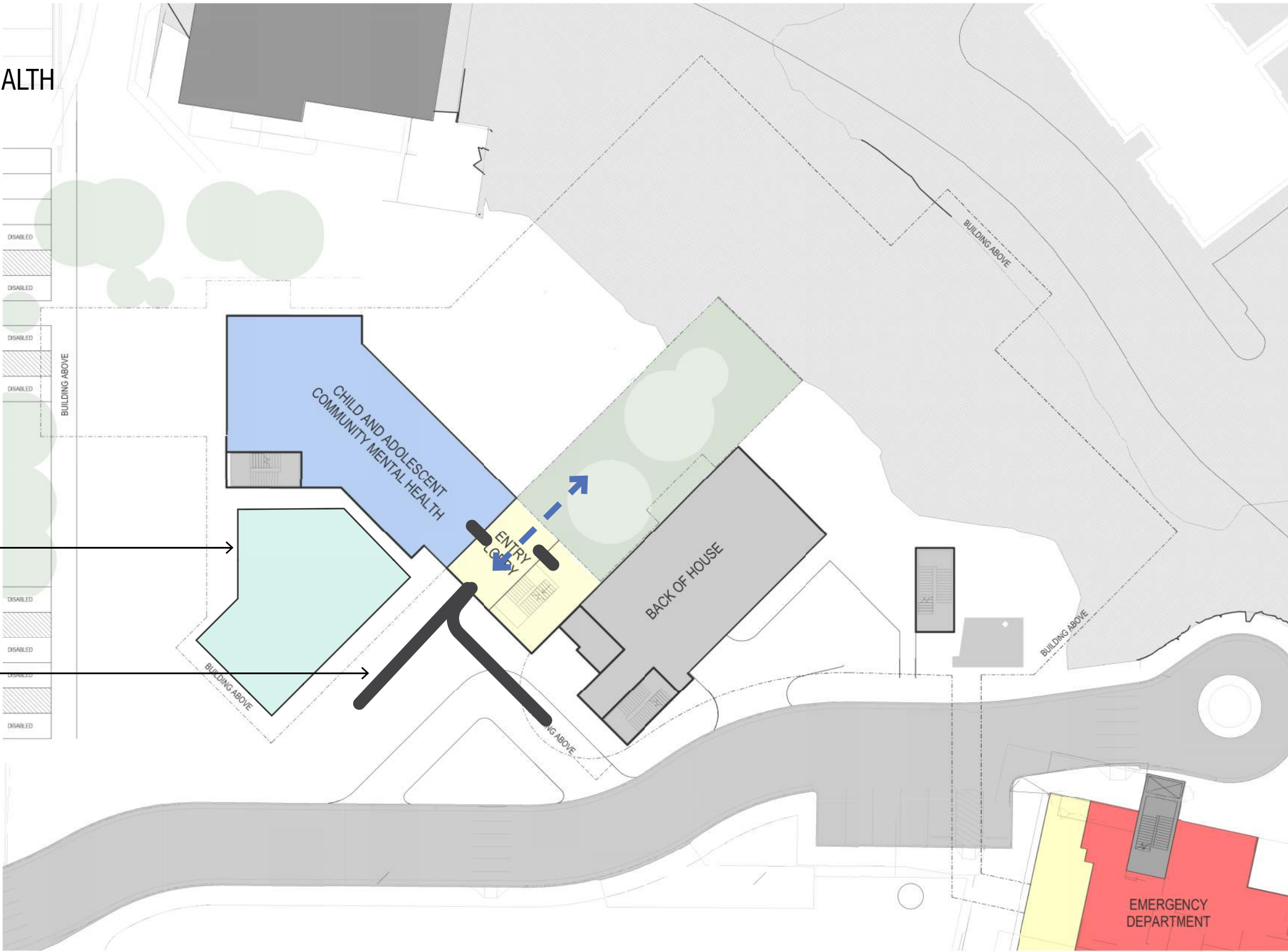
Scattered constellation
lights in the undercroft



Wayfinding motifs on paths



Wayfinding Visual connection to landscape and vistas



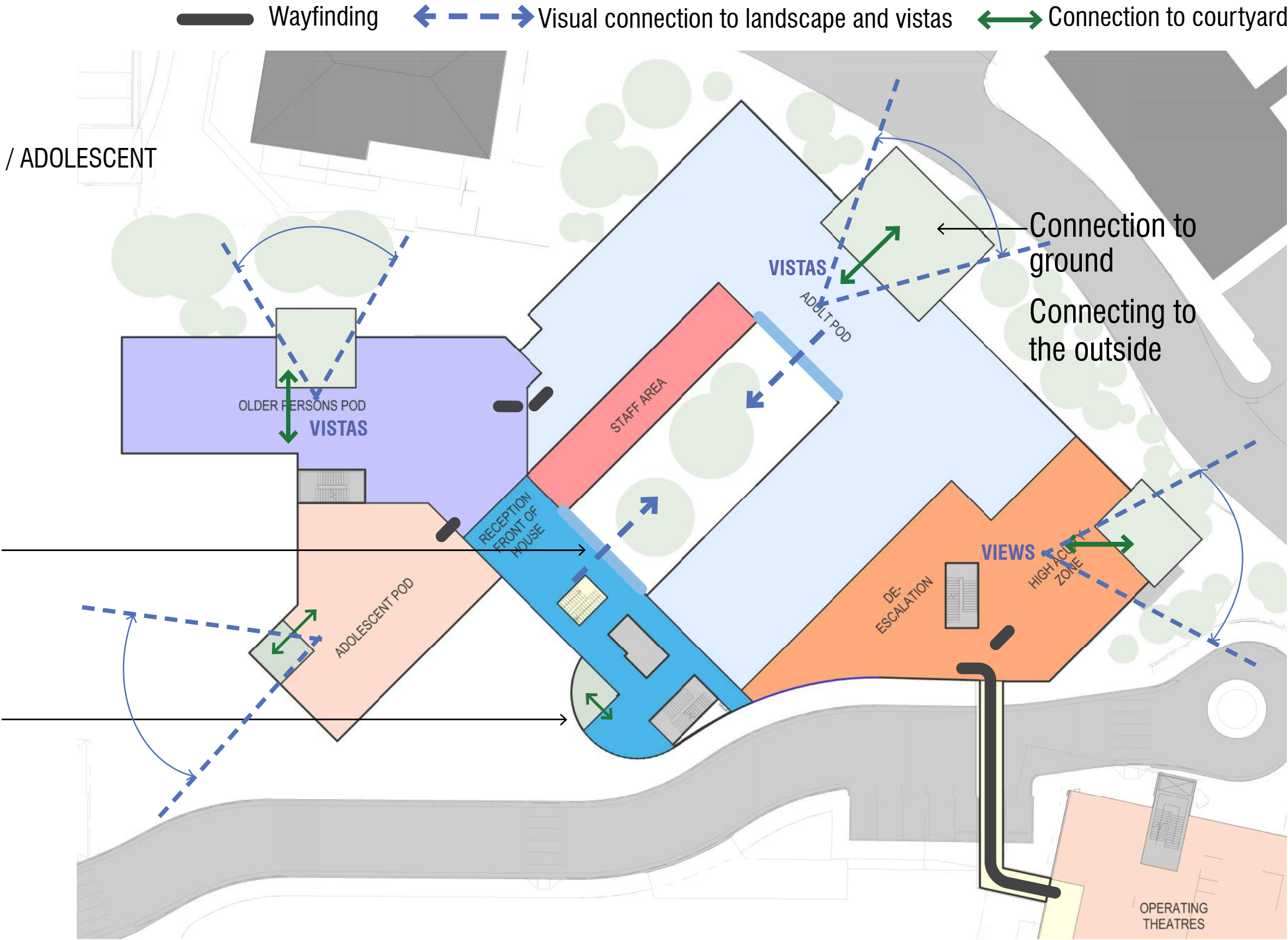
LEVEL 2

MENTAL HEALTH UNIT
ADULT / HAZ / OLDER PERSONS / ADOLESCENT

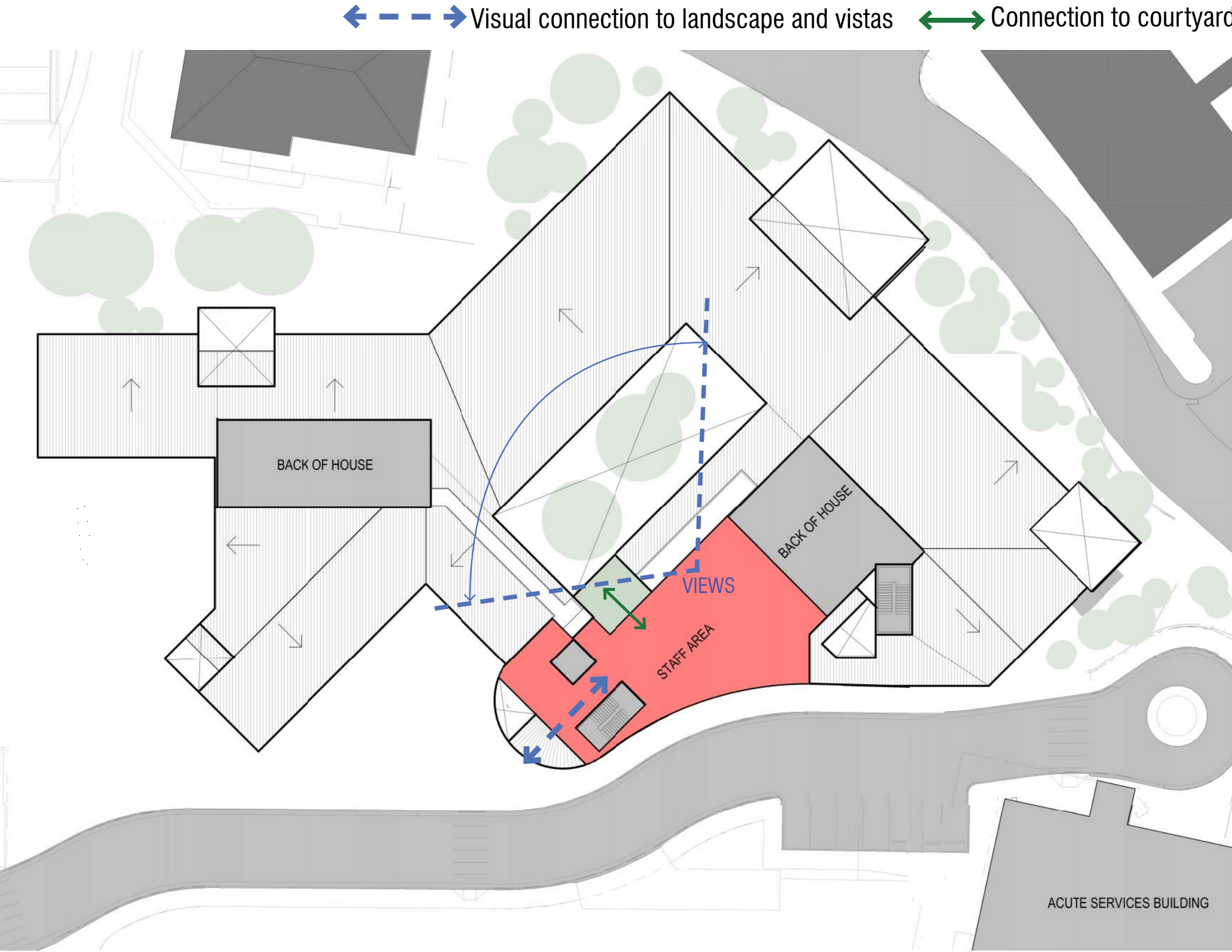
Shadow play - film on glazing for privacy



Family lounge and courtyards



LEVEL 3
STAFF WORKSPACES



RESPONSES

Views



Spaces that connect to the landscape



Connection and Grounding



BUILDING ENTRY AND FORECOURT VIEW



ARTIST IMPRESSION

| Design Principles

Connection to sky



Key Outcomes

Connection to the sky, from sunrise and sunset to the bright stars in the night sky. Connection to the ancestors and a world outside our own, bringing back perspective and wonder.

Cultural Care



Key Outcomes

The journey of life and seeking care. Creating spaces for people to come to for reflection or with family and friends. Ensuring a safe and welcoming design inside and out that people want to be part of.

Country as healing



Key Outcomes

Learning from Country and further becoming physically and mentally well. Enhancing the senses to create experiences, being inspired by the forms, colours and textures of Country to bring the outside in and enhance the overall unit.

| Site Plan

Design Notes

Connection to sky

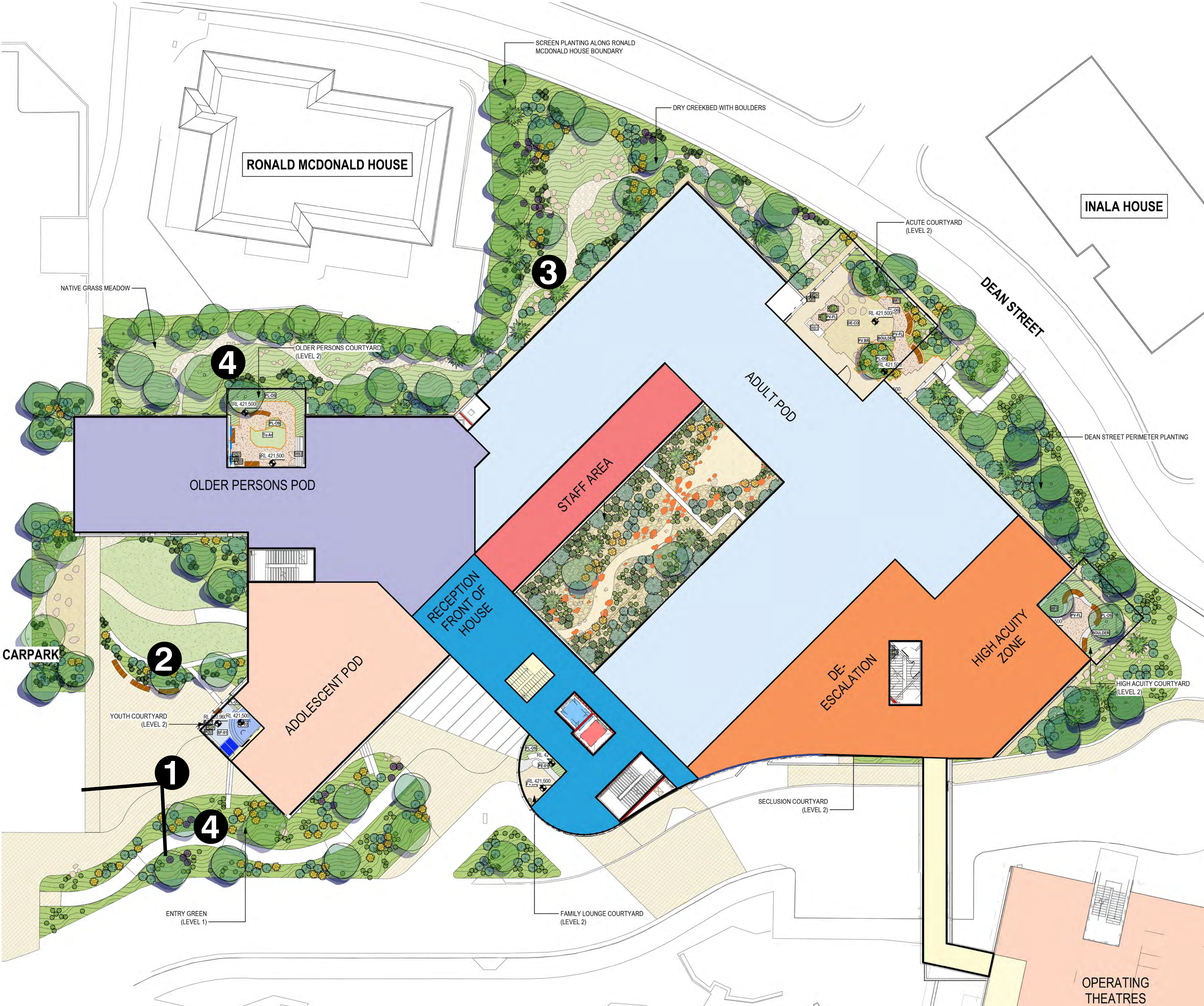
- 1
- Framed views towards the mountains and sunset beyond

Cultural Care

- 2
- Bush tucker, medicinal and resource plants to be planted in accessible garden areas

Country as healing

- 3
- Dry creek bed and planting to emulate the transitional qualities of the landscape (from the mountains to the gullies)
- 4
- Use of organic forms and textures throughout landscape spaces to deinstitutionalise the hospital setting



| Planting Principles

Meadow



Ridgeline



River and Valley



| Entry Green

Design Notes

Connection to sky

- 1 Scattered constellation lighting to roof of undercroft assisting in wayfinding

Cultural Care

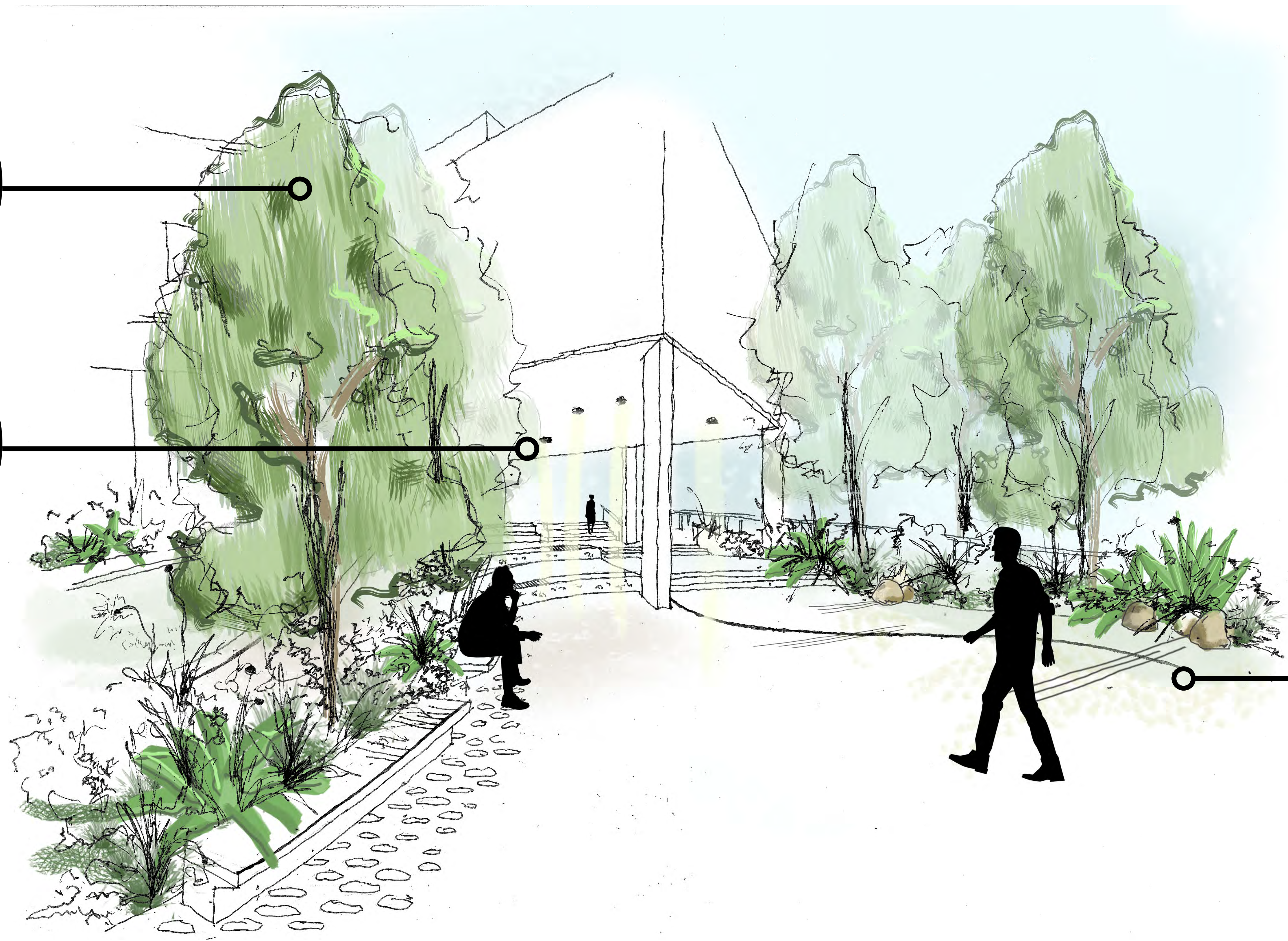
- 2 Bush tucker, medicinal and resource plants to be planted in accessible garden areas
- 3 Communal and individual reflection nooks

Country as healing

- 4 Culturally significant planting with mature trees providing sonic stimulation
- 5 Paving treatment with integration of natural elements



| Entry Green



| Atrium - Level 01

Design Notes

Connection to sky



- 1 Overhead lighting
- 2 Mature trees providing filtered light through to the landscape elements below

Country as healing



- 3 Feature sculptural elements by local artist
- 4 Central water feature to gabion wall providing sensory stimulation from surrounding rooms



1:200@A1

| Atrium - Level 01



| Acute Courtyard- Level 02

Design Notes



Cultural Care

- 1 Mountain and bush inspired mural to screen
- 2 Informal gathering space with locally sourced sandstone boulders

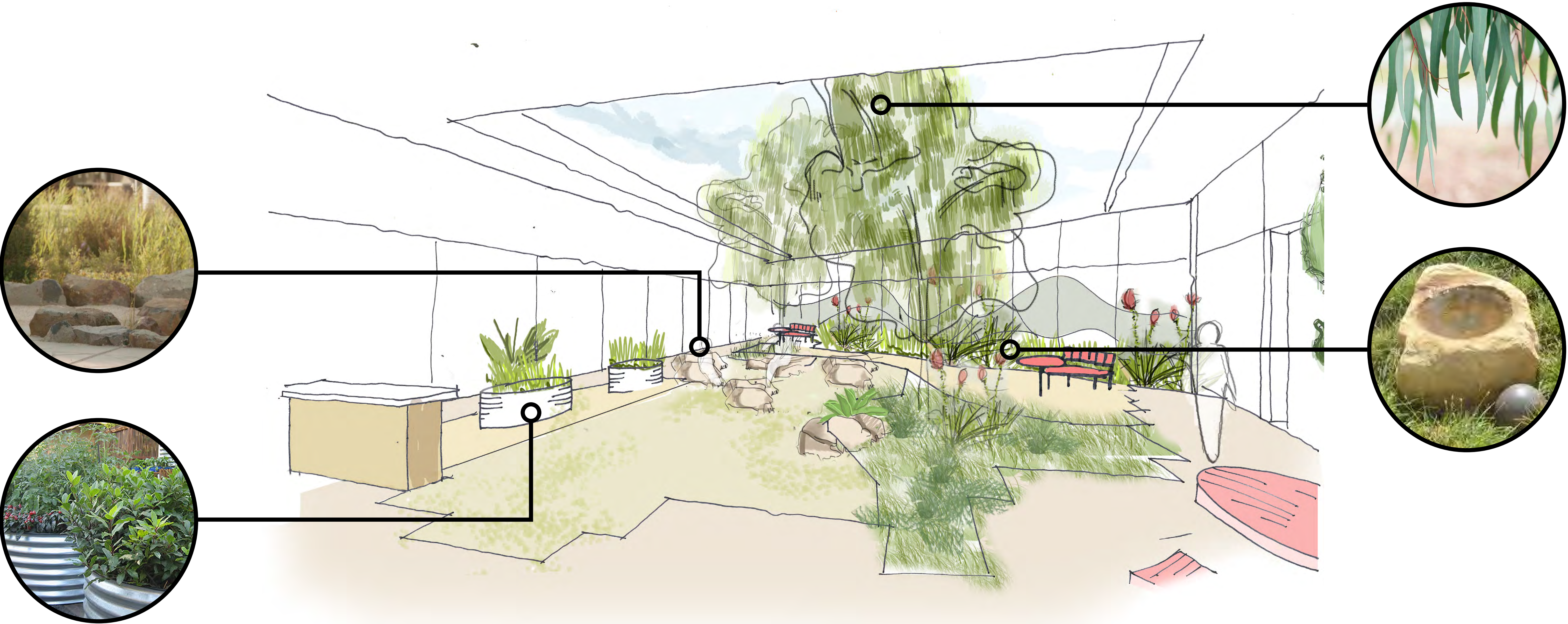


Country as healing

- 3 Feature mature trees and understorey planting creating sensory interest
- 4 Walking track to perimeter of courtyard
- 5 Raised vegetable gardens
- 6 Water feature to enhance calming ambience



| Acute Courtyard- Level 02



THANK YOU