

# Landscape Design Statement

## Design Statement

The landscape approach to the palliative care unit upgrade at Westmead Hospital was developed through a series of founding principles, establishing a strong connection to landscape context.

This was achieved in several ways, firstly by the use of endemic plant species, which in turn responds to the geology, soils and climate.

The aspect of the building also guided the careful selection of appropriate plants and responds to the facilities need to provide both private and communal spaces.

The spatial arrangement facilitates a variety of landscape settings and is sensitive to the varied cultural groups that will encounter the space on their journey through life.

Aspects of seasonality have also been threaded through the spaces and will provide unique settings throughout the year, breathing nostalgia and a sense of home to the facility.

The landscape is embedded with the principles of biophilia, allowing views and proximity to green to be maximised.

Private patient rooms frame the garden outside, while dappled light penetrates the internal spaces.

Variations in plants textures, smells and colour allow visitors to experience the landscape.

Comfort for users has been considered, with a variety of landscape rooms that serve the different needs of the users. These rooms include private contemplation spaces for family to gather.

Spaces have been carved out of mass planted areas to provide the opportunity for gathering and spiritual reflection.

A special area for staff is designated for quite breaks and privacy.

## Better Places

Better Places is about enhancing the design quality of our built environment, raising expectations and raising standards, about working better and creating better environments. The design has adopted the better places principles through:

- **Contextual, local and of its place:** Connecting with the local context of the Sydney region through plant species and material being driven by the local geology and ecotones of the region.
- **Equitable, inclusive and diverse:** There are multiple outdoor spaces that have different functions including a spiritual space, intimate spaces for self reflections, outdoor gathering and for the staff to retreat in their breaks. All the outdoor spaces have been designed for equitable and inclusive access allowing for patients beds to be moved through all areas and interact with these spaces.
- **Enjoyable, safe and comfortable:** All the outdoor spaces have been immersed in landscape with proposed trees providing canopy coverage and human comfort to the spaces.
- **Functional, responsive and fit for purpose:** The outdoor spaces have been programmed in a manor that allowed for patients who are able-bodied, assisted walking or in a bed to be access the different programmed landscapes.
- **Distinctive, visually interesting and appealing:** Plant species and material have been based of ecotones and ecologies from the areas which provide a unique and interesting visual character to the spaces.

## Draft Greener Places

The aim of Greener Places is to create healthier and more livable cities and towns by improving open space recreation and urban canopy coverage. The design has been driven by the greener places guidelines, with canopy coverage being a key driver fro the outdoor spaces ensuring that large canopy trees have been co-located with outdoor spaces to increase human comfort.

## Design Guide for Health

The landscape design has been developed on the fundamental design principles of the NSW health design guidelines, the landscape has been designed with dignity with the landscape being welcoming, creating an environment for people to feel safe, cared for and supported during stressful times. The outdoor programming has focused on designing for wellbeing with all patients, visitors and staff having access to greenery and gardens of different scales with both visual and physical connections.

## Connecting with Country

A design with country process has been undertaken, with consultations with indigenous user groups. A spiritual space has been designed into the landscape programming that will be further developed in the detail design, which will have consultations with indigenous and First Nation user groups.

## CPTED principles

The landscape design has adopted best practice CPTED principles with the planting design and species being curated to allow for vertical and horizontal sight lines to the programmed landscape zone and veranda spaces to allow the hospital staff to monitor patients in the outdoor spaces.