Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CQHHS) is building a Community Care Unit (CCU) on MacNevin Street, North Rockhampton. Work is anticipated to commence in May 2014.

**What is a Community Care Unit?**

A CCU is an accommodation facility for adult mental health consumers who do not require inpatient treatment in hospital, but continue to need support to successfully maintain their recovery and develop skills for independent living in the community.

CCUs are situated in the community rather than a hospital campus to simulate typical independent living environments, with the added benefit of providing 24 hour, 7 day clinical care and supervised residential rehabilitation, to help ease residents back to living within their community.

The service aims to promote recovery from mental illness by providing opportunities that maximise strengths and potential, and address functioning deficits arising from long term mental illness.

**How big is the complex?**

The new architecturally designed facility will consist of a cluster of 20 one bedroom apartments and will include common activity areas and parking spaces. The administration building, also on site, will contain offices, interview rooms and other staff facilities, as well as a large conference room providing space for various educational programs and group activities.

Green space areas are also incorporated into the site plan, with fencing and vegetation to support privacy.

**How is the 24 hour support provided?**

The CCU is staffed by clinicians 24 hours a day providing therapeutic interventions with medication management, group meetings, advice, independent living education and clinical risk analysis.
What type of people will be staying at the CCU?
Residents will be adults over the age of 18. They could be male, female, young adults, mothers, fathers, grandparents, employed, unemployed, skilled or unskilled. Residents are not acutely unwell but benefit from participating in the recovery based rehabilitation program and require more support than is generally available to them at home. Their condition is stable and they have met a strict set of criteria to be eligible for referral.

Is it safe to locate the CCU at the location in the North Rockhampton area?
It is safe to locate the CCU within the community as the residents have reached a point in their recovery that enables them to integrate back into the community. Their phase of rehabilitation requires interaction in a social setting and a move towards independence. The daily 24 hour staff presence means that assistance is always available.

Will neighbours be affected by the CCU?
Evidence shows that neighbours of existing CCUs are unaffected by activities at facilities. Individuals have reported that the 24 hour presence actually helps them feel more secure in their homes, particularly at night.

The CCU will be similar to all manner of unit complexes - it will fit in with the current aesthetic of Rockhampton and will have a variety of people residing there from all walks of life.

Local businesses may be positively influenced by the unit. Businesses providing amenities, consumables and other services may find that they will get increased patronage from the CCU as has occurred with similar facilities elsewhere in Queensland and interstate.

Are there other facilities like this already operating?
There are several similar facilities in and around Queensland and a large number throughout Australia. There are CCUs located at Mountain Creek (Sunshine Coast), Townsville, Redcliffe-Caboolture, Strathpine, Windsor and Coorparoo. There are also plans for other new CCUs to be located at Bundaberg, Cairns, Toowoomba, Logan and Gailes.

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