

MARCH 2025

Launceston Hospice

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Launceston Hospice?

The Launceston Hospice will be a purpose-built facility providing 12 beds dedicated to hospice and hospice respite care.

Why does Launceston need a new hospice?

The closure of Phillip Oakden House in 2007 has left Launceston without a dedicated public palliative care hospice facility, leading to community concerns about limited access to contemporary palliative care and end-of-life care.

Who is the new hospice for?

The new Launceston Hospice will cater for community members with life-limiting conditions and their families and carers.

Where will the new Launceston Hospice be located?

The Department of Health's Allambi Building at 33-39 Howick Street in South Launceston has been selected as the location for the new hospice facility.

Will patient rooms have access to outdoor areas?

Each patient room will have access to a private veranda area as well as an internal courtyard area. The internal courtyard area will also be able to be used by visitors to patient's rooms.

The design includes a public courtyard area that will be available for all visitors to use and a community garden that will be accessible by patients in beds and wheelchairs.

What facilities will be available for visitors to the hospice?

The hospice will have a lounge area for patients and their families and visitors. The lounge area will have a kitchenette and access to the public courtyard area. There is also a day room and a calm room that patients and their visitors will be able to use.

Will pets or companion animals be able to visit patients at the hospice?

The inpatient area has been designed to flexibly meet the needs of inpatients, with features that support interaction for family members and friends of all ages and abilities. Pet or companion animal visits will be accommodated when required.

Will there be parking for visitors to the hospice?

There will be onsite parking available at the hospice for visitors. Additional parking will also be available at the new Launceston General Hospital Multistorey Carpark once built.

Why was the Allambi Building chosen for the new Launceston Hospice?

The Allambi Building is located within the Launceston General Hospital precinct and offers easy access to the community with nearby parking, public transport and other healthcare services. Allambi further provides the new Launceston Hospice facility a unique opportunity to utilise the existing established garden setting and courtyards, promoting strong connectivity to greenspaces.

What are the design features of the new Launceston Hospice?

- *A home-like environment:* A design that evokes feelings of home, comfort and normality. With quality finishes and furnishing, thoughtful use of colour and decorative features, warmth and pleasant smells.
- *Promotes dignity:* With single rooms and ensuites for privacy, a design that supports independence and logical wayfinding to assist with a sense of belonging.
- *Includes the natural environment:* Views of nature, naturally lit and ventilated rooms, access to nature and gardens, and supports interaction with animals. The Allambi Building provides the new hospice with a unique opportunity to utilise the existing established garden settings and courtyards, promoting strong connectivity to greenspaces.
- *Welcomes family and loved ones:* Providing physical space and amenities to support family and friends to come together and spend quality time together.

- *Flexibility of use:* Spaces that facilitate individual and shared use, such as spaces for quiet reflection or spiritual practice, as well as areas to come together for community and social interaction.
- *Quality care:* Supports the safe provision of high-quality palliative care by staff and volunteers.
- *Artwork Integration:* Integration of thoughtfully curated artwork throughout the hospice creates a sense of place, beauty, and reflection. Artwork can also serve as wayfinding cues and promote emotional healing through visual engagement.
- *Universal Design for Accessibility:* Incorporating universal design principles ensures that the hospice is accessible so people of all abilities can navigate comfortably and independently.

Who is involved in the development of the design?

The design for the Hospice has been informed by specialist health planning and consultation with key stakeholders through the establishment of a Project Reference Group. This group includes representation from the Friends of the Northern Hospice, Palliative Care Tasmania and the Northern Consumer and Community Engagement Council as well as internal Department of Health stakeholders.

Will neighbouring services be affected during the construction of the new hospice?

The project team will notify staff and community members accessing services in the neighbouring buildings about any changes to entry or access throughout the construction phase.

When will the new hospice open?

Subject to necessary approvals, construction is expected to begin in mid-2025. Construction is expected to be complete and the Hospice open to accept patients in late 2026.

How is the project being funded?

The Australian Government has committed \$20 million towards the construction of the Launceston Hospice.

Will the current services offered at the Allambi building be relocated?

Yes, to make way for the new Hospice the existing services at the Allambi Building will be relocated. The Department is currently considering options to relocate these teams and services.

What are the next steps?

A Development Application for the project is currently being assessed by the City of Launceston. Subject to achieving Council approval, the design will be finalised, where possible incorporating feedback from stakeholders, and the construction tender released.

Construction is expected to begin in mid-2025. Construction is expected to be complete and the Hospice open to accept patients in late 2026.

Who can I contact if I have further questions?

GHD have been engaged to assist the Department of Health with this project. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact the project team by email at participate@ghd.com or by phone on (03) 6210 0662.