

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

From: Kasey McCulloch, Media Officer, Mercy Health

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Werribee Mercy Hospital expansion begins

Construction of a multi-storey car park at Werribee Mercy Hospital has started as part of a major expansion of the hospital.

The multi-storey car park will be located at the southern end of the hospital near the maternity unit and create additional car parking bays to keep up with the increased demand for health services in Melbourne's west.

The new car park will take approximately eight months to complete during which time some of the current car parking bays won't be accessible.

Chief Executive - Health Services Dr Linda Mellors is encouraging members of the Wyndham community to allow extra time for planned visits or appointments at the hospital during the construction period.

"Unfortunately, there will be some inconvenience in the short term for our patients, visitors and staff but the end result will well and truly make up for this," Dr Mellors said.

"Access to our Emergency Department and maternity unit will remain the same so anyone requiring urgent medical treatment is advised to follow our normal process."

Werribee Mercy Hospital received \$85 million in the 2015-16 State Budget to provide critical care and other essential services to the Wyndham community.

The expansion will include a new Critical Care Unit, six operating theatres, 56 inpatient beds and a new central sterile supply department. The expansion is due to be complete by mid-2018.

"This is an exciting time for both our hospital and the Wyndham area," Dr Mellors said.

"Demand for health services will only continue to grow and this expansion will enable us to keep meeting the community's needs."

The multi-storey car park is being self-funded by Mercy Health. The Mercy Health Foundation and the Werribee Hospital Foundation are also fundraising for an additional \$2 million to contribute to the Critical Care Unit.

- Ends -

For interviews and photo opportunities, please contact:

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