

Local Community Forum – SPIRE Project

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD



SPIRE PROJECT – LOCAL COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

The SPIRE Project will be the largest healthcare infrastructure project undertaken in the ACT since self-government. There is public interest in the SPIRE Project and a heightened interest amongst the Canberra Hospital's near neighbours and the surrounding community.

Major Projects Canberra is committed to engaging with the local community to ensure their specific interests, concerns and aspirations associated with the SPIRE Project are heard and agreed solutions are developed.

An important milestone was achieved when a SPIRE Project Local Community Forum was held on 4 February, 2020.



THE CONVERSATION

In November 2019, the Minister for Health Rachel Stephen-Smith announced a SPIRE Project Local Community Reference Group would be established in early 2020. Interested community members were encouraged to register an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in the Local Community Reference Group (LCRG) via a survey on www.yoursay.act.gov.au/spire.

Nearly 60 EOIs were received during the registration period, reflecting the local community's significant interest in the SPIRE Project. Due to the size of this response, all registrants received an invitation to attend a Local Community Forum to ensure individuals could provide initial contribution prior to the formation of the LCRG.

This inaugural Local Community Reference Group Forum, in February 2020, aimed to:

- Encourage greater participation from across our diverse community.
- Provide an opportunity for the community to share their thoughts, concerns and aspirations for the new emergency and surgical procedure facility at Canberra Hospital.
- Inspire conversation, receive insights and collaboratively navigate solutions.
- Inform the initial direction of the SPIRE Project Local Community Reference Group.

Responses from the EOI survey provided the SPIRE Project team an indication of key areas of interest of the group going into the Forum. This included the reasons why the SPIRE Project was important to each registrant (see feedback below). This greatly assisted in the planning of the Forum:

Why is the SPIRE Project important to you?

- 'If I or a family member goes to the hospital in the future, we may use the facility' (38 respondents)
- 'I live nearby the Canberra Hospital' (32 respondents)
- 'I am interested in the design of the landscape around the facility' (28 respondents)

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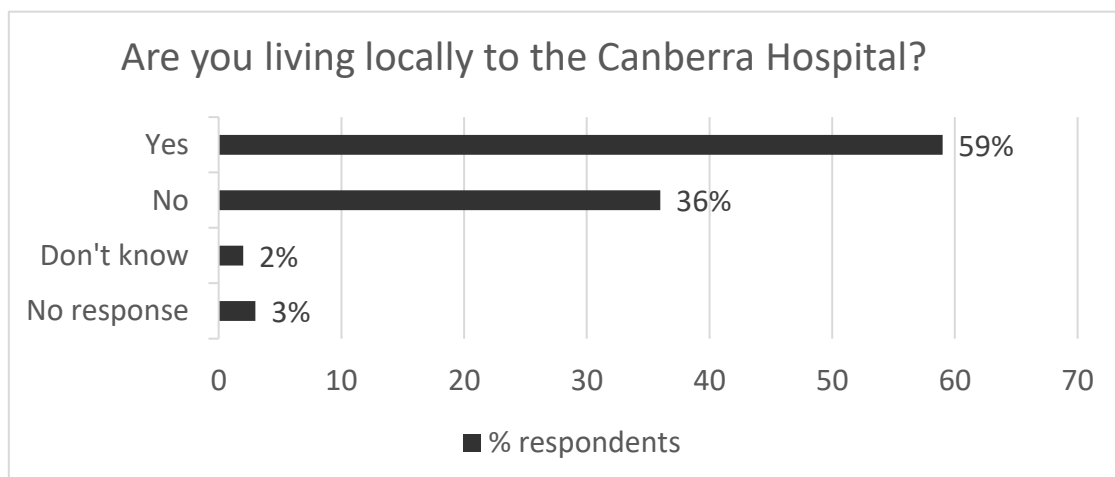


- 'I want to know more about the safety of the new facility' (22 respondents)
- 'I want to know about the clinical services offered' (21 respondents)
- 'I want to know about the disability and access options' (16 respondents)
- 'My child attends the school nearby' (14 respondents).

WHO WE ENGAGED

This invitation-only event was attended by 26 of the EOI respondents, representing an engaged and diverse community. Of the respondents:

- 56 people expressed interest in joining the LCRG
- More than half of the respondents were aged between 35 and 54
- There was nearly an even split across the 25-34, 55-64 and 65+ age groups
- 59 per cent of respondents confirmed they are living in the local area.



Attendees heard from the Minister for Health Rachel Stephen-Smith, Canberra Health Services and the SPIRE Project team, who provided a project update and context for the new community group. The Forum facilitated open conversation via a workshop, this provided attendees the chance to express their main concerns and ideas for possible solutions and therefore inform the way forward in 2020.

There were four workshop themes which covered considerations during the planning (design phase) and construction (delivery phase) of the SPIRE Project, as follows:

- Design phase: urban design
- Design phase: parking and local traffic
- Design phase: school access
- Delivery arrangements.

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The SPIRE Project team would like to thank everyone who responded to the EOI and to those who attended the Local Community Forum. Your ongoing feedback and interest is crucial to the success of the project.

WHAT WE HEARD SUMMARY

A summary of the workshops' findings are tabled below (more detail will be provided to the Local Community Reference Group).

Key insights

Design phase: Urban design

Key discussions included:

- Safe design outcomes for residents, staff and visitors.
- Environmental considerations, such as efficiencies in water and energy usage.
- Green spaces and relaxation areas, for visitors, patients and staff.
- Public transport prioritisation/efficiency – including frequency and safe transfer to and from services.
- Enhanced pedestrian and cycle access to/around the hospital campus precinct.
- Integration of the new facility with the hospital masterplan and other on campus development.
- Signage – both wayfinding signage and external signage to direct visitors/staff to ED – ensuring signage is consistent, visible and communicated.

Design phase: Parking and local traffic

Key discussions included:

- Traffic congestion (including around the hospital and school) – further research into current conditions and how to minimise additional disruption once SPIRE is operational.
- Exploration of parking options for long/short and temporary parking to ensure least amount of impact to staff, visitors and residents.
- Ambulance routes and noise from helipad – research frequency, affects and timing
- Road access – consider options to minimise disruption.
- Safety for motorists and pedestrians/residents – look at possibilities for school and hospital pick up areas, speed limits and access points.

Design phase: School access

Key discussions included:

- Investigating safe pedestrian routes.
- School access/drop off points – open conversation about alternative options to current layout.

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- Explore other possibilities for ambulance access to ED.

Delivery arrangements

Key discussions included:

- Parking arrangements (including contractor and long-term parking) – exploring options so ample parking is available.
- Safety – traffic, asbestos, dust.
- Disruption during the construction phase (e.g noise, heavy vehicle movements, vibration etc.)
- Surrounding roads (e.g. Gilmore Crescent, Palmer and Kitchener Streets) - research how to create least amount of impact on congestion during construction.
- Construction/traffic impact to community – ensuring community communication about changes and timing.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Appointment of the Local Community Reference Group:

The group will be established during February 2020 with a membership of 12-15 people representing local community groups and individual near-neighbour residents. Local Community Reference Group members will be selected from the EOI respondents via selection criteria, which will as much as possible be reflective of the broader Canberra community.

The first Local Community Reference Group meeting (26 February, 2020) will be informed by the Local Community Forum workshop outcomes to determine the initial direction of the group. Meetings will be held monthly throughout 2020 and beyond (as required). Further SPIRE Project Local Community Forums will be held as needed and as recommended by the Local Community Reference Group.

To find out more about the SPIRE Project and register to receive project updates, visit www.yoursay.act.gov.au/spire

Key Timings

4 Feb 2020 LCRG Forum

Feb 2020 *What We Heard* report

Feb 2020 Appointment of LCRG

26 Feb 2020 inaugural Local Community Reference Group meeting (monthly thereafter)

Further Local Community Forums (dates advised as required)

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

**56 respondents
to Expression of
Interest**

**More than half
aged between 35
and 54**

**20 per cent
identified as
having a
cultural or
linguistic
background**

**10 per cent
identified as person
with a disability**