Sydney Nursing School’s new clinical simulation lab is in the final stage of completion thanks to the Westmead Redevelopment project team. The lab will be completed in time for the first cohort of Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry) students beginning in semester 1.

The lab will be the practical learning hub for over 30 students enrolled in the graduate entry course, based at the University of Sydney Westmead campus.

Nursing students will undertake more than 800 hours of clinical practice, in addition to professional learning and lectures at the Westmead precinct during the two-year course.

“In the clinical simulation lab, students will have the opportunity to learn a range of clinical skills such as hand decontamination, wound dressings, catheterisation, medication administration and intravenous therapy” said Dr Jacqueline Bloomfield, Associate Dean (Education) Sydney Nursing School.

“Students are supervised in the lab, but are also encouraged to engage in independent learning through practice sessions”.

The clinical simulation lab will complement the already impressive teaching expertise at Westmead.

“The Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry have been at Westmead for over 25 years. It’s really exciting that nursing can now join our colleagues in multidisciplinary approaches to improving health and health care at this precinct” said Sydney Nursing School Dean Donna Waters.

“The cohort of nursing students studying at Westmead will be offered the same world-class teaching as that already offered at Sydney Nursing School’s Mallet Street campus” said Professor Waters.

The new students will be welcomed to Westmead during an official launch on Wednesday 2 March. University of Sydney Vice Chancellor Dr Michael Spence will join General Manager of Westmead Hospital Andrew Newton and other key staff to address staff and students and officially open the clinical simulation space.
Working It

Over the past week, volunteers from several hospital departments have been studying how we use our workspaces as part of the New Ways of Working (NWOW) initiative.

Every day, eight times a day, for five days they've been out and about, observing how we use our offices, meeting rooms and other non-clinical areas.

“The purpose of the study was to look at how people were occupying their spaces, for example, were they at their desk, in a meeting or involved in some other kind of collaborative work in another workspace,” explained project director Jonathan Darwen.

“The information from the study will help our architects create workspaces that fit our needs now and into the future. We’ll also be presenting the findings to the departments involved in the study so they can see the results.”

Volunteers reported a lot of interest in the purpose of the study, the potential for technology to improve workplace mobility and types of workspaces being considered.

“Staff members who are already working collaboratively, for instance in shared office spaces, expressed the need for rooms for confidential conversations with patients, colleagues or students. New Ways of Working includes dedicated rooms for specific purposes, such as focused attention, collaboration or private conversations. You won’t have to wait for the tea room to be vacant before you can find a space to talk privately,” Jonathan said.

Thank you to Jenifer Jonson, Lauren Mace, Nicole Collins, Valerie Cabal, Leeanne Colinenette, Julie Ashbourne, Meroline Pisarkiewicz and Sharon Sheehan who conducted the studies in their departments. You can sit down now and have a rest!

Meet the Team: Neville Abbott

What’s your title?
Project Manager

What’s your role on the project?
I will be assisting across various areas of the project initially and will be focusing on the Acute Services Building in future

What are you working on right now?
Getting to grips with the project, meeting the team and supporting them by assisting with various tasks.

This year, our team pledged to “always ask what matters most” as part of our Change Day commitment. What matters most to you on the project?
That the project is delivered as well as it possibly can and that it is a positive journey for all involved.

What do you think matters most to your stakeholders?
It depends on the stakeholder, this is one of the really important things to find out when engaging with the various people involved in or affected by a project.

What were you doing/what role did you have before you joined the project?
I am from South Africa and have just moved across to Australia. I worked in PwC’s Capital Projects and Infrastructure division in South Africa

How long have you worked for Health/Hospital?
About a week

What was your first ever job?
I worked as a general labourer in a warehouse in London that distributed baby strollers.

Tea or Coffee?
Coffee

Dogs or Cats?
Dogs

Favourite secret spot in Sydney?
Still trying to understand the geography – still have to find a spot.

Guilty Pleasure?
Music
Important information on our works

- Please be patient, there will be disruption on the campus over the next five years.
- Check signs around your usual parking area for upcoming changes as the project progresses.
- Follow instructions from site staff.
- Walk only on marked paths.
- Report any concerns or questions you have to the Project Office – 1800 990 296

Works On Site

- Short stay redevelopment works continuing for the HOPE unit.
- Masters of Nursing works continue.
- Works have commenced on ICPMR Roof. Cranes onsite in February.
- Disruptions along Institute Road continuing. Traffic control in place. Please follow the instructions of traffic wardens.
- Car parking construction. Access to Oval is now closed until the new car park is opened in 2016.
- Trenching for infrastructure upgrades.
- Due diligence investigations for proposed helipad.
- Infrastructure upgrades underway.
- High voltage upgrade works continue.