



Re-elect

Rachel Nolan

Here & Now. Building Ipswich.

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Refurbishment works to create a new nurse education centre at Ipswich Hospital's iconic AE Wilcox building are almost complete.

State MPs Rachel Nolan (Ipswich) and Wayne Wendt (Ipswich West) today visited the much-loved 122-year-old building on a visit to Ipswich Hospital.

"Ipswich residents have an emotional attachment to the AE Wilcox building, which originally started out as the hospital's nursing school," Ms Nolan said.

"It's fitting that the refurbished building is returning to its roots as a nurse education centre.

"Work is almost complete on the new centre, which is set to be officially opened mid-year, which will coincide with the Q150 celebrations and Ipswich's 150th birthday."

The AE Wilcox building is the last building on the Ipswich Hospital site from the original campus.

After suffering severe fire damage in 2005, the Ipswich community rallied to save the building from demolition.

"The Ipswich community passionately wanted to see the building restored after the fire, and we've responded to their wish," Mr Wendt said.

"The refurbished building will house two formal training rooms, one mock-up four bed ward (for hands on training), three mock up treatment rooms, offices for lecturers and instructors, computer rooms for students, and a dedicated space for the Hospital museum and historical artefacts.

"Its features include retention of heritage façade of the original building, an energy efficient air conditioning system, rain water harvesting technology for use in the building's toilets and heritage clues throughout the building."

The refurbishment is just one of the planned improvements to Ipswich Hospital currently underway or planned to start in the near future.

The Bligh Government is also committed to delivering a \$6.7 million upgrade of Ipswich Hospital's emergency department.

The ED upgrade will include paediatric treatment spaces and six paediatric short stay observation beds.

Other work planned or underway includes a current refurbishment of the rehabilitation area and the Government's \$122 million commitment to deliver 84 extra beds.



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