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# Media Release

Thursday, August 11, 2016

## Do you want to be part of the biggest health project in NSW history?

Do you have big ideas about healthcare in western Sydney? Do you want to help design a new hospital building in Westmead? Then we want YOU!

The Westmead Redevelopment project team is looking for community members of all ages, cultural backgrounds and language groups across western Sydney, including former patients, carers and those who are – or have been – active in the health sector to share their ideas as the Westmead precinct is redeveloped.

Participants can be involved as much – or as little! – as they want, simply sharing their experiences in the healthcare system or joining a team or working party to provide ongoing input into the Westmead Redevelopment.

More than \$900 million is being invested in the Westmead Redevelopment, including funds for a new acute services building, infrastructure upgrades, refurbishments and additional car parking.

Right now, community members are involved in the planning and design of the new acute services building, which will link Westmead Hospital and The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Feedback is being given on various areas, including the new main entry, patient and family waiting areas, a link-way between the hospitals, plus clinical spaces like wards and operating theatres.

Community members are also currently involved in refurbishment planning of Westmead Hospital.

Westmead Hospital general manager Andrew Newton said these community perspectives would ensure future services were easier to access, safe, high-quality and meet patient needs.

“Working with patients and visitors to see things from each other’s point of view is a vital part of designing and building new healthcare facilities,” he said.

“Right now, we need the community’s help with designing the main entry to the new hospital building - both inside and out.

“No doubt the community will come up with fantastic ideas – big and small - and new ways of thinking about the spaces and design features; the smallest suggestion can make a big difference, like adding a patient lounge, widening a door or creating a place for visitors of long-term patients to make a cup of tea – we want people involved in our planning.”

Dalya Karezi, a student at Western Sydney University and the president of the Western Sydney Refugee Association, recently became a consumer representative for the Westmead Redevelopment project.

The 23-year-old from Prestons, who is pursuing a career in health, wanted to ensure the views of patients and visitors were reflected in future hospital projects.

“Western Sydney Local Health District has exponential opportunities to not only improve our healthcare system, but to create an inclusive environment where consumers and local communities are empowered and encouraged to participate in their own care,” she said.

“I think there are also potential opportunities for young people to bring their ideas, creativity and experience to help shape tomorrow’s healthcare system.”

Among the many opportunities to be involved, the Westmead Redevelopment project is looking for people to attend an upcoming workshop offering ideas about the main entrance to the acute services building, including outdoor green spaces and the main foyer.

To find out more about becoming a consumer representative or to share your ideas about the new hospital building and entrance, call the Westmead Redevelopment team on 1800 990 296.

For more information on the Westmead Redevelopment, including artist’s impressions of what the new buildings will look like, go to [www.westmeadproject.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.westmeadproject.health.nsw.gov.au)

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**\*\*Editor’s note:** Photo attached. Interviews available. Contact Corporate Communications specialist Emma Spillett at [emma.spillett@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emma.spillett@health.nsw.gov.au) or call 0427 925 198 to arrange. \*\*