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Community Town Hall Information Session - Relocation Arcadia House

Thursday 25 June 2026

ACT Government

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



ACT Public Sector Values

We are committed to the way we behave when serving the ACT community:

- **Respect** – We are inclusive, professional and considerate in all interactions
- **Integrity** – We act honestly and do the right thing, even when it's difficult
- **Collaboration** – We listen, engage and work together constructively
- **Accountability** – We take ownership and follow through on our commitments
- **Innovation** – We are open, practical and solution-focused

We ask the community to partner with us by showing the same respect and courtesy in return

We all play a role in creating safe, respectful and productive engagements.

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Minister for Health
Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

ACT Government

Arcadia House



STEPHANIE STEPHENS

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

DIRECTIONS HEALTH SERVICES

Directions
Health Services

Arcadia House Service Overview

Specialised Recovery Programs

Arcadia House offers residential and day programs supporting abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Comprehensive Case Management

Clients receive individual support for housing, employment readiness, and community reconnection.

Therapeutic and Group Counseling

Counseling focuses on emotional regulation, coping skills, relapse prevention, and healthy routines.

Safe and Structured Environment

A supervised 24/7 setting ensures safety, accountability, and mutual respect for all participants.



Directions
Health Services

Model of Care and Day-to-Day Support

Individual Case Management
Personalised case management helps participants set goals, track progress, and address recovery challenges flexibly.

Counselling and Group Programs
Therapeutic groups facilitate exploring substance use causes, coping strategies, peer support, and rebuilding trust.

Life Skills Training
Training in routines, stress management, and relationships aids successful community reintegration.

Structured and Supervised Environment
24-hour staffed environment with clear rules promotes safety, consistency, and immediate support in early recovery.



Directions
Health Services

Why a Residential, Community-Based Setting Is Appropriate

Community-Based Rehabilitation Benefits

Recovery is more effective in environments that resemble everyday living rather than clinical settings, supporting long-term behavior change.

Supportive Residential Setting

A calm, predictable home-like setting encourages motivation and helps participants practice essential life skills for reintegration.

Positive Community Impact

Community-based services operate safely alongside neighbors, supporting healthier communities and stable futures with professional oversight.



Directions
Health Services

Thank you.

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Directions
Health Services



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Infrastructure Canberra

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Why Arcadia House Needs to Be Relocated

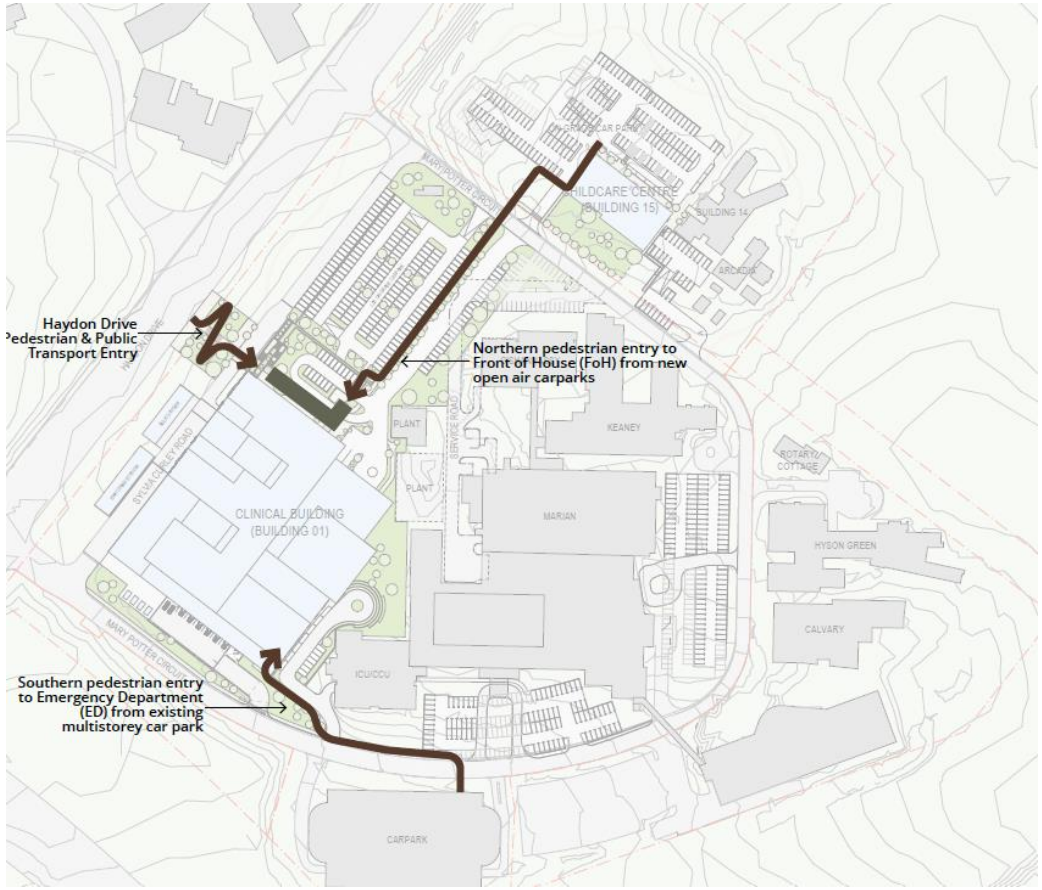
North Canberra Hospital – undergoing significant redevelopment to deliver critical health infrastructure for the ACT.

Outdated Facilities

Current Arcadia House buildings are aging and no longer fit for purpose.

Opportunity for Improvement

Relocation offers a chance to provide a purpose-built, community-based facility.



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Site selection process to date

Site Investigations

- Government owned sites were investigated in Cook, Holt, Melba, Flynn, Spence, Jacka, Evatt and Gungahlin
- Assessed against a range of practical and planning considerations to determine whether it could accommodate the service safely and effectively.

Initial Site Shortlisting

- 3 sites shortlisted - 2 in Cook, 1 in Spence
- Other sites ruled out due to constraints such as environmental protections, planning restrictions, site size limitations, access challenges, or lack of suitability for a residential care model.

Further Refinement

- Spence site ruled out early
- Key issues – layout, solar orientation, road access and parking

Where are we?

- The project is in the early planning phase, with ongoing feasibility and due diligence to inform site selection
- We are seeking community input to understand:
  - How existing sites and spaces are currently used
  - The potential impacts of future development
- Local insight is critical — it provides perspectives not captured through technical studies
- Community feedback will help identify needs, priorities, and local sensitivities
- This input will play a key role in shaping planning and decision-making as the project progresses



What are the sites being considered in Cook?



Site A – 41 Templeton St – Community Facility Zone (CFZ)



Site B – Crn Ellis St and Biffin St - Urban Open Space (PRZ1)

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What work has been undertaken

- The high-level test fit explored a range of possible design configurations.
- Community consultation will help validate whether the underlying assumptions are aligned with local expectations and priorities.
- The current tender process will assess the feasibility of these options, including key constraints such as the status and potential impact on existing trees.

Preliminary Options (preferred option outlined in red):



Site A – 41 Templeton St

Early Test Fit - Site B

Preliminary Options (preferred option outlined in red):



What is the proposed footprint

- Preliminary Schedule of Accommodation of approximately 815.5 square metres.
- This image was part of the site test fit study - highlights the portion of the site zoned for community use, where development is currently permitted.
- There remains capacity to accommodate supporting car parking as well as additional development areas beyond the immediate facility footprint.
- Whilst no plans for expansion – highlights that the facility doesn't limit site flexibility in the future.



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Next Steps

- Continue feasibility assessments and due diligence across potential sites
- Analyse community feedback and **publish listening report**
- Refine site options and design assumptions based on technical and community insights
- Assess constraints and opportunities (e.g. environmental, access, infrastructure)
- **Identify and recommend a preferred site option for further consideration**

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Have your say:

https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/arcadia-house

Email:

info.northsidehospitalproject@act.gov.au

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