

## PROJECT INSIGHTS

# A new and expanded Central Sterilising Supply Department on its way

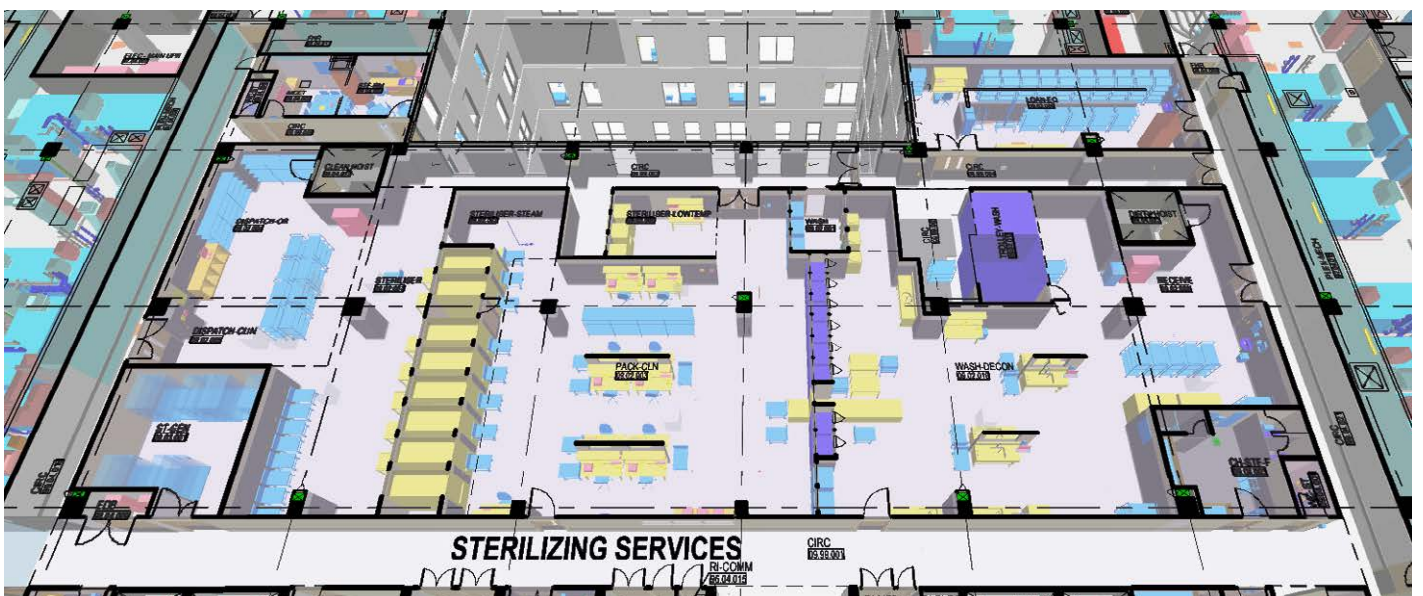
Staff have designed a bigger and better Central Sterilising Supply Department (CSSD) for Nepean Hospital's new 14-storey hospital tower as part of Stage 1 of the Nepean Redevelopment.

The CSSD is responsible for cleaning and sterilising all instruments used around the hospital from departments such as Operating Theatres, the Delivery Suite, ICU, Cancer Care and the Emergency Department.

Sterilisation Services Manager Karena Steenholdt, who was involved in the planning and design of their new department, explained that planning for the new unit started a few years ago to determine the functional design.

"This involved a comprehensive review of the department's workflows with our team and infection prevention staff within the cleaning, packing and sterilising areas to determine the new unit's functionality and layout," she said.

"Since there will be an increase in the number of operating theatres and additional obstetric theatres in the new building, we had to make sure that we were going to have enough space to do our job.



A 3D drawing of the new CSSD unit



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Image taken in current CSSD unit

“From there, we began working with sterilising consultants and the architects to see how the department could flow within the new space.”

Another important part of the planning and design process was determining which equipment to move across and what new equipment is needed. This includes undertaking an extensive assessment and tender evaluation process.

“All of the tenderers had to be compliant with the Australian Sterilising Standards and demonstrate how their products were compliant with these standards,” said Karena. “In turn, we also had to ensure we would remain compliant with those standards when using their products.”

Karena says the machines in the new department will be an upgrade to what is currently being used.

“We were able to work with a design consultant to plan how our processes will be more efficient if we have a specific washing system.”

The CSSD team also gained approval for the loan equipment room (where external supplier loan equipment sets are stored) to be bigger than originally planned, to support future requirements.

“That was a big win for us because the concept of our loans room is changing in regards to how we handle our loan equipment,” said Karena. “For example, it means we will have more space for the storage of road cases and tubs.”

The new space in the tower will allow the CSSD team to increase workflows from four washes and sterilises per day to seven washes and sterilises per day.

The CSSD, which is currently located on level one of North Block, below the existing Operating Theatres will be located on level four in the new hospital tower.

“We’re looking forward to moving up in the world and having more natural light in the department. We’ll be above the operating theatres instead of below them, and we’ll also get a bigger tea room for staff,” added Karena.

Karena says she and her staff are looking forward to utilising the new machines in the new tower.

“I’m excited about the new technology that will come with the newer machines,” she said.

“While they are similar to what we have now, they will have some enhanced design features that will better suit our capabilities.”



Image taken in current CSSD unit

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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