

Media Release

The Hon Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Child Protection
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers



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SEYMOUR AGED CARE FACILITY UPGRADE ONE STEP CLOSER

A major upgrade of Seymour Health's residential aged care facility – Barrabill House – is one step closer, with the Andrews Labor Government releasing a tender to appoint a builder for the major redevelopment.

The \$3.17 million redevelopment will increase bed numbers at Barrabill House to 40 thanks to new 10-bed private rooms complete with ensuites.

To ensure residents feel at home, new dining and lounge areas along with a new sensory garden and outdoor pavilion will provide additional space for residents to socialise and meet with family and friends.

Barrabill House staff and community members have provided valuable feedback on the facility's design to ensure it meets the needs of residents and staff alike, thanks to a unique 'real life' design experience.

Technical drawings of the redevelopment were transformed into virtual reality, allowing staff and members of the community to 'walk' through the aged care facility wearing 3D goggles.

The Labor Government expects to announce a builder by the end of the year, with construction underway in early 2021. The facility is scheduled for completion by mid-2022.

The important upgrade is part of the Labor Government's ongoing investment in best practice public sector residential aged care services and high-quality care for older Victorians.

The revamp of Barrabill House was made possible through the Government's flagship \$350 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund. Through the fund, the Government is supporting aged care and health providers to ensure Victorians can access the very best care, no matter where they live.

The Government is making record investments in public sector aged care including \$27.75 million to support multicultural aged care.

In addition, the *Victorian Budget 2020/21* invested \$175 million to ensure our older Victorians have a safe and comfortable home, where they know they'll be cared for.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan

"We're modernising and upgrading public residential aged care right across Victoria, giving older Victorians the facilities and care they deserve."

"Our goal with all aged care facilities is to provide an environment that is as comfortable and welcoming as possible for residents and their families."

Quotes attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

"Victorians in rural and regional areas deserve to have modern and efficient health care services close to home – our flagship Regional Health Infrastructure Fund delivers exactly that."

"This upgrade means Seymour Health can care for more residents in a home-like environment with more privacy and comfort."

Media contact: Hannah Porter 0418 377 715 | hannah.porter@minstaff.vic.gov.au