



Renewal of the Hospital Complex

Neerim Health has commenced the long-awaited renovation of the former aged care wing to create a new Community Health Hub. This follows a 14-month delay while final compliance approvals were secured. Supported by a \$5 million Commonwealth Priority Community Infrastructure Program Grant, the redevelopment will deliver new clinical consulting rooms, a procedure room, telehealth facilities, day respite spaces, group rooms, and dedicated areas for health and wellbeing programs.

Demolition works have uncovered structural issues in roof trusses and the concrete slab, requiring significant remedial work. Recent photos included in this update show the extent of these activities. Internal demolition has progressed, and preparation is underway for floor levelling and the installation of new walls, windows, and ceilings. Solar panels have been safely removed for storage and will be reinstalled once the new Colorbond roof is fitted.

Construction is expected to conclude by early May 2027, with the new Community Health Hub opening shortly after.



Solar panel removal.



Internal demolition.

Financial Stability Confirmed

Like many small regional health services, Neerim Health has faced challenges maintaining financial viability due to ageing infrastructure and limited scale. By the end of 2025, the organisation was experiencing significant financial pressure.

We are grateful to the State Government for providing operational support during the redevelopment period. This assistance ensures financial stability while construction continues and positions Neerim Health to deliver a broader range of health and wellbeing services once the new hub opens.

The new facility will support a strong multidisciplinary model, enabling GPs, nurses, allied health professionals, and specialists to work more closely together. This will improve care coordination and increase the number of services available locally.

Community Consultation

The development of new services—such as the Community Health Hub, clinical programs, outreach services, and digital care options—requires structured and inclusive community consultation. The Board recognises that meaningful engagement ensures services genuinely reflect community needs, particularly for vulnerable and underserved groups.

Neerim Health's approach to consultation will be:

- **Early** – undertaken before major decisions are finalised
- **Inclusive** – including groups that are often less heard
- **Multi-method** – combining in-person and digital engagement
- **Clinically grounded but community-shaped**
- **Continuous and transparent**
- **Focused on real needs, safety, and accessibility**

Core Consultation Methods

1. Community Advisory Committee engagement
2. Public information forums
3. Online surveys and feedback portals
4. Regular updates via our website, newsletters, and local media

A Range of Potential New Services

The new facilities will allow Neerim Health to transition into a comprehensive Community Health Hub, bridging the gap between hospital, home, and specialist care. This approach will reduce patient travel and strengthen preventative health support.

The new consulting suites will complement and enhance the services already provided by specialists using the operating theatre.

Possible new services, subject to collaboration with neighbouring health services and community feedback, include:

Enhanced Clinical and Diagnostic Services

- Minor surgical procedures (e.g. dermatology procedures and biopsies)
- Visiting specialist clinics (cardiology, orthopaedics, oncology, geriatrics)
- Chronic disease management (diabetes, respiratory health, renal care)
- Women's and children's health services

Virtual Care and Telehealth

- Specialist consultations delivered locally with nursing support
- Remote patient monitoring for chronic disease
- Virtual staff training and clinical education

Community Health and Wellness Programs

- Chronic disease self-management workshops
- Group rehabilitation programs
- Allied health and mental health group sessions
- Health education (nutrition, healthy cooking, smoking cessation)

Specialised Care and Support

- Day respite for older residents and people with dementia
- Mental health "safe space" support
- Post-acute care services (wound care, medication management)
- Allied health services such as podiatry, occupational therapy, and physiotherapy

In Other News

New Treasurer

We acknowledge the retirement of Treasurer **David Wells** at the end of January and warmly welcome **Kristy Rowse** as our new Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. Kristy is a Certified Financial Planner, Principal Adviser at MB Wealth Management, and a Warragul local whose son attends Neerim District Secondary College.



David Wells

Recycling Old Equipment

In January 2026, Neerim Health donated 25 aged-care beds, mattresses, and four princess chairs to the Orison Medical Health Centre in South Sudan through Rotary Donations in Kind. These items formed part of a 40-foot container of medical equipment shipped in mid-February.



Fundraising

We are fundraising for a compliant stainless-steel bench in the Sterilisation Department, costing approximately \$8,000. Through equipment sales, a cinema fundraiser, and participation in the Neerim & District Lions Club Town Garage Sale, 55% of the target has already been raised. Further fundraising — including an Easter Egg Hamper raffle — is underway.

Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible and can be made via our website or at reception.



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