



STRENGTHENING HEALTH SERVICES IN MOROBE PROVINCE: THE ANGAU HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT AND UPGRADES TO RURAL HEALTH FACILITIES

THE GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRALIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA ARE INVESTING A\$207 MILLION TO IMPROVE HEALTH SERVICES IN MOROBE PROVINCE, INCLUDING REDEVELOPING ANGAU HOSPITAL AND UPGRADING FIVE RURAL HEALTH CLINICS IN MOROBE PROVINCE.

The ANGAU Hospital redevelopment is the largest Australian infrastructure project in Papua New Guinea since independence. It will position the hospital as a leading specialist healthcare provider for the country, serving a catchment area of almost two million people.

The Health Services Plan for the ANGAU Hospital redevelopment identified the importance of reflecting the hospital's role in the broader health system, particularly in enhancing the capacity and capability of rural and urban health facilities. In response, the Australian Government is also investing in two key initiatives for rural services in Morobe Province: the development and implementation of patient referral guidelines, and infrastructure upgrades to five district health facilities.

ANGAU HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

The ANGAU Hospital redevelopment is supported under the Papua New Guinea – Australia Partnership. The 18,000m² redevelopment will include:

- Development of a new acute services building, equipped with a modern 12 bed intensive care unit, four operating theatres, and new sterilisation, pathology and medical imaging facilities.

- Construction of a new emergency department and urgent care centre, and refurbishment of the hospital's current main building to provide outpatient services.
- Refurbishments and new construction of general and specialist wards, which will increase the points of care at the hospital.



- Construction and expansion of maternal and new-born care facilities, including new birthing, maternity and paediatric wards and a special care nursery.
- Major renovations and new builds for community and support facilities at the hospital, including a new chapel, mortuary, support services building, family support centre, and upgrades to roads, carparks, fencing and utilities.

In addition, support is being provided to strengthen clinical and corporate services at the hospital so that it runs more efficiently and effectively. The approach has been designed to deliver the maximum health outcomes for the community with the funding available.



STATUS OF THE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

The project will be rolled out in a staged approach to enable the hospital to continue its day-to-day operations with minimal disruption.

The first stage involved immediate maintenance and upgrades of selected hospital assets. This included significant clean-up operations, fire safety, air-conditioning and incinerator upgrades, and drainage, fencing and landscaping works.

Major construction works have now commenced. A new Family Support Centre was handed over in May 2018, and a new multi-denominational chapel, triage centre, Back of House facility (kitchen, laundry and workshop), TB Ward, Birthing Ward and civil works are underway.

STRENGTHENING REFERRAL PATHWAYS

The strengthening of the patient referral pathways between district health facilities and ANGAU Hospital aims to better coordinate the clinical care of patients who require movement from one level of care to another.

Led by the Morobe Provincial Health Authority, ANGAU Hospital and the National Department of Health and supported by Australian funded technical advisers, referral guidelines were developed for Morobe Province. These could also be adapted for other provinces.

A successful pilot of the referral guidelines was undertaken with five rural facilities and ANGAU Hospital. With Australian support, the new referral guidelines are now being rolled out across Morobe Province, including training of staff and the implementation of a closed user group mobile network to facilitate fast and effective communication of referrals between facilities.

UPGRADING DISTRICT HEALTH FACILITIES

Australia is also investing in infrastructure upgrades at health facilities in Bulolo, Wau, Mutzing, Etep and Braun. The upgrades mean that these facilities can now provide a higher standard of care and are better positioned to serve as the main referral health service for surrounding communities. This, in turn, will reduce the need for patients to travel to ANGAU Hospital for medical care.

In Mutzing, Etep and Braun, advanced digital x-ray is now available on site through the delivery of containerised x-ray units with back-up generators. These three sites have also received ultrasound and laboratory equipment, operating theatre equipment and instruments, vaccination fridges and other essential items. The Australian Government has committed \$2 million for equipment across these three district facilities.



The Australian Government is also working with the Morobe Government to undertake infrastructure projects to the value of A\$5 million. This includes major upgrades at Bulolo Health Facility and a new clinical service building at Mutzing.