

Cairns Hospital Morgue Condition Assessment and Feasibility Study Brief

Scope of Service

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS) are requiring a Building condition assessment, feasibility and P50 cost estimate for the refurbishment of the Cairns hospital Mortuary and Autopsy space.

This work will be undertaken in consultation with the Cairns Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS) and Pathology Queensland (PQ)

Both the condition report and feasibility study is to support the application for appropriate funding to address any works required to bring up to current standards, address the safety risks and increase capacity within the same footprint currently occupied. The study should be presented in separate parts as below for the application of funding

- Condition assessment
- HVAC system requirements
- Body holding; fridge and freezer short and long term
- Body reception; Hospital Funeral directors, Police and Ambulance
- Autopsy unit.
- Waiting / viewing accessible by the Family and Office area

Feasibility intent

Cairns Hospital Mortuary is serviced by Cairns Hinterland hospital and Health Service (CHHHS) and Pathology Queensland (PQ). This is the main mortuary in Far North Queensland covering Cape York peninsula to Cardwell in the Cassowary Coast.

The services provided by the Cairns Hospital Mortuary include Coronial and Non-Coronial Deceased persons acceptance, identification, autopsy/post-mortem assessments, short- and long-term storage, family viewings and release of deceased patients to Funeral Homes in Far North Qld and across the state where applicable.

The Hospital Mortuary / Autopsy Unit is an important part of the health service, with particular needs for security and privacy. The Mortuary was mainly out of scope during the Cairns Hospital Redevelopment. With the inclusion of the new refrigerator in the Mortuary. However, the rest of the Mortuary including the old refrigerator and freezer room were not updated. The mortuary is located at Block C, ground level to allow easy and discrete access for Ambulances, Police and Funeral director vehicles to deliver and/or remove bodies via the body reception area and discreet access for hospital staff to move bodies.

The current mortuary is old, outdated, and does not meet the capacity requirements for current usage. It has no capacity to meet any disaster management events or increasing bed capacity of Cairns Hospital. The Mortuary area has a number of issues including unreliable HVAC, ongoing mould and other identified Workplace health and safety risks such as manual handling and associated infection control issues that need to be addressed.

Policies Impacting on Built Environment

- Australasian Health Facility Guidelines, Part B - Health Facility Briefing and Planning 0490 – Hospital Mortuary Autopsy Unit, Revision 7.0, July 2020
- AS1428.1:2009 Access and Mobility Standards
- AS/NZS 3000: 2018 Electrical standard
- Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 (QLD)
- National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council, 2013, Requirements for the Facilities and Operation of Mortuaries (Third Edition 2013)
- NZS/ISO 15189:2012 Medical Laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence
- Standards Australia, 2010, AS/NZS 2243.3: 2010 Safety in laboratories (SAI GLOBAL), Standards Australia, Sydney, NSW

- Standards Australia, 2017, AS 1940:2017 The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids (SAI GLOBAL), Standards Australia, Sydney

Operational Description

Hours of operation

Generally, the areas would operate during business hours 0800 to 1700 there will be need for after hour access.

Flow

There is a functional relationship between the areas for Staff - There should be not general public access to the spaces. With exception of the viewing / waiting spaces

Specific design requirements

Natural light

Highly desirable for staff who occupy workstations for most of the day.

Privacy

Essential for access, confidential conversations and viewings

Mechanical

Air conditioning to be on timer clock for operation as per normal business day operations however with manual override for use after hours.

All fridges and freezers are to be connected to the Building Engineering Maintenance Services (BEMS) monitoring system.

Electrical

Lighting to be energy efficient LED

Essential power to be provided to the two zones. Nominated 100% of capacity to these zones to allow for work to continue in event of shutdowns on non-essential power.

Security

Whilst the unit is to be operational between 0800 – 1700 hours it should be designed to enable after hour access via CARDAX access to main body reception.

Duress alarm required viewing and office areas.

Communications, Tele health and ITC

Design to allow for enough data points to each desk position and any workstation (1 x triple data) to allow connectivity.

Full Wi-Fi to the floor is required for portable device usage. WAP locations to be provided by HSIA.

Once floor layout is confirmed this will be issued to HSIA for advice.

Mobile phone reception is required

Facilities

BODY RECEPTION

AusHFG Room Code	Room / Space	Qty	m2	Remarks
MOR-BR	Body Reception Area	1	7	Entry / exit point for signing bodies in and out.
BHWS-B	Bay - Handwashing, Type B	1	1	

BODY HOLDING

AusHFG Room Code	Room / Space	Qty	m2	Remarks
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MOR-BH	Mortuary -Body Holding	3		<p>Fridge holding, may be provided as a bank of refrigerated cabinets or walk in cool room for approx. 120 bodies (20 bariatric) capacity.</p> <p>Decomposing Holding Fridge 10 bodies (5 bariatric)</p> <p>Freezer holding for 20 bodies.</p> <p>Space allocation needs to include manoeuvring/loading space</p> <p>Includes hand wash basin.</p>
BMEQ-4	Bay - Mobile Equipment	1	3	For trolley and/or charging mobile lifting equipment.
BPPE	Bay - PPE	1	0.5	
BLIN	Bay - Linen	1	2	
CLRM-5	Cleaners Room	1	5	Shared with Autopsy
DISP-8	Disposal Room	1	8	Shared with Autopsy Unit if provided.

WAITING / VIEWING

AusHFG Room Code	Room / Space	Qty	m2	Remarks
MOR-W	Mortuary - Waiting	1	9	Accommodates up to 5 people, includes optional water dispenser. Access to outdoor area is highly desirable for cultural consideration. .
MOR-VR	Mortuary - Viewing Room	1	8	Accessed from viewing room and fridge store.
BS-1	Bay - Storage	1	1	Viewing linen / apparel.

AUTOPSY UNIT

AusHFG Room Code	Room / Space	Qty	m2	Remarks
CHST-10	Change - Staff (Male/ Female)	2	8	Male and female includes property locker (1/2 length lockers and hooks), shower, toilet and bench.
ANRM	Anteroom	1	6	Include area to don / doff boots, hand wash basin, hooks, dirty linen skips.
MOR-AU	Mortuary - Autopsy Room	1	30	Includes emergency eye wash / shower.
	Observation Area	1	10	Minimum of 1 to be provided per autopsy suite. Orientation to autopsy room will depend on the type of autopsies being undertaken ie. coronial or non-coronial.
	Store - Tissue Samples	1	6	Storage of tissue samples in formalin until they can be disposed of. Sized to meet type and volume of cases per year, eg coronial autopsies will require long term secure storage of tissues.
	Store - Flammable Liquids	1	1	

	Office - Workstation		4.4	Number of workstations required will be dependent on staff profile.
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OPTIONAL AREAS

AusHFG Room Code	Room / Space	Qty	m2	Remarks
Body Reception				
	Bay - Weight	1	2 (o)	Optional. Weighing of bodies may be provided via trolleys.
OFF-S9	Office - Single Person	1	9 (o)	Optional. For administration duties depending on staffing profile. May include lockable cupboard for valuables depending on operational policy.
WCST	Toilet - Staff	1	3 (o)	Optional, only provided where Autopsy Unit is not collocated as additional amenities provided in this circumstance.
WCAC	Toilet - Accessible	1	6 (o)	Optional. To be provided if not located nearby