

Australasian Health Facility Guidelines - Use in NSW

Summary This Guideline has been updated to provide information on the application of the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines (AusHFG) to capital developments in NSW.

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Audience Area Executive, Asset Management, Capital Works

AUSTRALASIAN HEALTH FACILITY GUIDELINES – USE IN NSW

PURPOSE

This Guideline has been developed to provide information on the application of the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines (AusHFG) to capital developments in NSW.

The AusHFG are an initiative of The Australasian Health Infrastructure Alliance (AHIA) which includes representatives from all jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand and enable public health facilities throughout Australasia to be planned and designed from a common set of base elements.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The AusHFG consist of health planning units (e.g. adult inpatient unit), standard components (e.g. a 2 bed room) and other whole of project information relating to subjects such as infection prevention and control.

Integral to the AusHFG is a continuous review process to ensure that the content reflects contemporary models of care and operational practices. Each document is reviewed every four years and the process includes literature reviews, outcomes of post occupancy evaluations and a moderated expert reference group.

USE OF THE GUIDELINE

NSW Health recommends that the AusHFG are used as a tool to assist in identifying acceptable standards for facilities and should form the basis from which planning and design progresses for new or refurbished facilities. Good project planning requires consultation, review and testing with stakeholders including service managers, clinicians and consumers to ensure the delivery of appropriate and safe physical environments that support and enhance the delivery of high standards of patient care.

Application of the AusHFG is not intended to restrict innovation that might improve performance or outcomes, or to be prescriptive where clinical service circumstances or individual project requirements can validate an alternate approach.

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Amendment notes
November 2018 (GL2018_024)	Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health	Updates to the terminology associated with the AusHFG and NSW Health Process of Facility Planning.
November 2008 (GL2008_017)	Director General	New Guideline

ATTACHMENTS

1. Australasian Health Facility Guidelines – Use in NSW: Guideline

Australasian Health Facility Guidelines – Use in NSW



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This Guideline has been developed to provide information on the application of the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines (AusHFG) to capital developments in NSW.

1.2 Background

The AusHFG were endorsed for use in NSW in December 2006. The AusHFG are an initiative of The Australasian Health Infrastructure Alliance (AHIA) which includes representatives from all jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand.

The AusHFG enable public health facilities throughout Australasia to be planned and designed from a common set of base elements. The AusHFG consist of health planning units (e.g. adult inpatient unit), standard components (e.g. a 2 bed room) and other whole of project information relating to subjects such as infection prevention and control.

Integral to the AusHFG is a continuous review process to ensure that the content reflects contemporary models of care and operational practices. Each document is reviewed every four years and the process includes literature reviews, outcomes of post occupancy evaluations and a moderated expert reference group that includes senior clinical staff and consumers.

2 AUSTRALASIAN HEALTH FACILITY GUIDELINES - USE IN NSW

NSW Health recommends that the AusHFG are used as a tool to assist in identifying acceptable standards for facilities and should form the basis from which planning and design progresses for new or refurbished facilities. Good project planning requires consultation, review and testing with stakeholders including service managers, clinicians and consumers to ensure the delivery of appropriate and safe physical environments that support and enhance the delivery of high standards of patient care. Information contained in the AusHFG, such as room data sheets and room layout sheets, are to be used as a well-developed starting point that will be reviewed by users to ensure that requirements for the individual project are well considered.

Application of the AusHFG is not intended to restrict innovation that might improve performance or outcomes, or to be prescriptive where clinical service circumstances can validate an alternate approach. Although regularly reviewed and updated, the AusHFG cannot include every technological innovation for either building design or health services delivery. It is the role of the project teams to identify specific project requirements including innovative practices related to service models and operational approaches.

Issues such as the geographic location of the facility, particular site factors and refurbishment versus new build solutions, will also impact on how the AusHFG should be interpreted and applied.

The design process should also seek out cost effective solutions. Examples include efficient design through minimising circulation, travel and engineering and sharing of selected space (e.g. meeting rooms).

Consultations with user groups may therefore result in variations or departures from the guidelines. The variation process is described in the NSW Health PD 2018_041 *Australasian Health Facility Guidelines Variations Process*.

Where an AusHFG resource does not exist for a particular service, it is recommended that recent projects be used as a starting point. This will involve a comparison of models of care to ensure the planning assumptions are consistent.

The timely and cost-effective delivery of projects on budget necessitates having a point, at which space, as documented in schedules of accommodation, becomes 'fixed'. NSW Health has nominated the approval date of the Business Case including Schematic Design for the project as the point where the schedules of accommodation become fixed. Updates made to the AusHFG guidance prior to the end of a project's Schematic Development (Part 3) should be incorporated in the project documentation. Updates made after this point should be considered for inclusion as agreed through project governance.

Closely aligned to the AusHFG has been the development of the dRofus database. This is a web-based tool kit that provides access to the AusHFG 'standard components' to brief health projects. It can be used to develop schedules of accommodation, develop room data sheets and associated equipment lists. The database is organised along agreed project milestones so comparison at each stage of planning is facilitated.

The AusHFG website is available at <http://www.healthfacilityguidelines.com.au>