

The Concept

The purpose of the University of Melbourne Shepparton Medical Centre is to meet the educational needs of medical, and other health science, students. A considerable side benefit will be an increased capacity to meet the health needs of the community of Shepparton and the Goulburn Valley, areas underserved by many criteria. The clinic has the capacity for 10 practitioner consulting rooms, side by side with 10 learning consulting rooms. The separate consulting rooms for learners, working beside practitioners, allows supervised active learning. The clinic will also contain procedure rooms, specialist consulting rooms, offices and a student teaching hub. The student teaching hub will encourage multiple interactions between students and different practitioners, providing breadth to the student learning experience and a true learning environment for all.

While it is anticipated there will be some specialist medical teaching and experience (general medicine and surgery, women's, children's and mental health), the bulk of the medical student experience will be in general practice, addressing the need for greater general practice experience for our students. Increased exposure to general practice for our students might also aid future recruitment to this area of special need.

Subject to negotiation with schools of nursing and allied health and postgraduate general practice training schemes, the clinic will offer the opportunity for these students to be involved in this exciting teaching environment.

The Clinic will be owned by the University of Melbourne and managed by UMEE, the University's commercial arm.

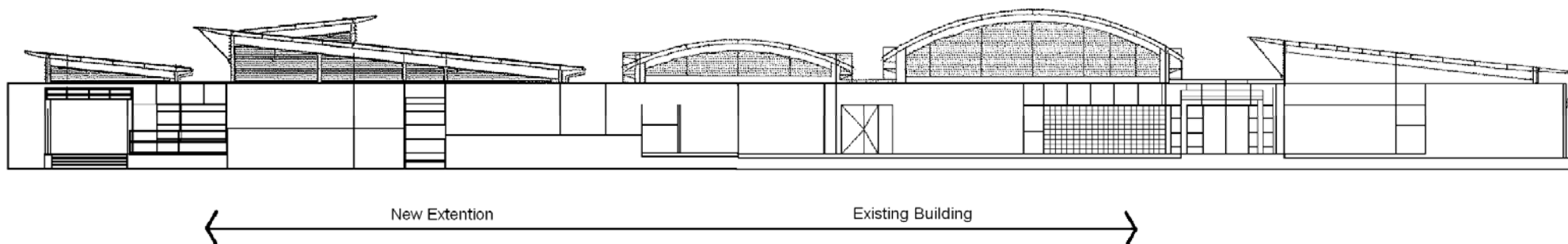
The Building

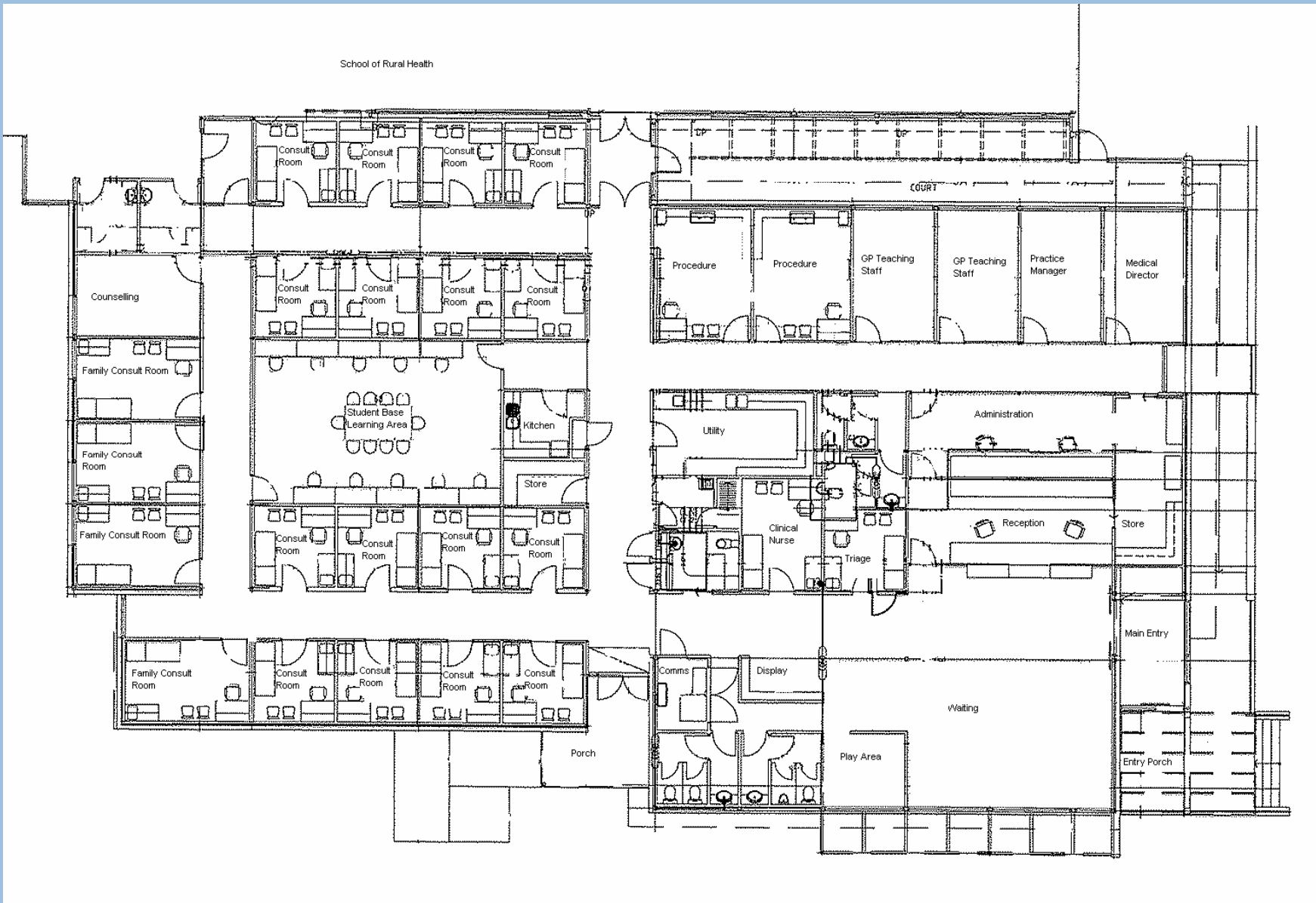
Construction commenced in May 2008 and is expected to be completed August 2009. Located opposite Goulburn Valley Health and adjacent to the School of Rural Health offices, the new medical centre is due to open to the public mid August 2009.



Prof. James Angus (Dean Faculty Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences), Dr Sharman Stone (Federal Member for Murray) and Prof. Dawn DeWitt (Head School of Rural Health) turn the first sod for the University of Melbourne Shepparton Medical Centre.

Elevation view of the front of the University of Melbourne Shepparton Medical Centre and School of Rural Health Graham Street building.





Call For Expressions Of Interest

With a start date only 10 months away, recruitment is a big issue, particularly given the size of the recruitment task (equivalent to 10 full time practitioners as well as medical director, nursing and office staff). While the clinic hopes to recruit practitioners to the area, the teaching environment might encourage some local practitioners to contribute to this learning service clinic. This newsletter provides the opportunity for practitioner, and staff, within, or outside the Goulburn Valley, to contact Professor Bill Adam at the School on 5823 4500, to either seek information about the clinic or signify their interest in participation.

Dawn DeWitt
Head of School
School of Rural Health

Floor plan of the Shepparton Medical Clinic.