

LESSONS LEARNT IN DEVELOPING MAJOR HOSPITAL PRECINCTS

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STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Problem/Purpose

The development and re-development of major hospital precincts today do not revolve around the services of a hospital nor its physical structures and amenities only. This research investigates the principles and lessons learned from leading North American and Australian case studies in the development of the \$5.3bn Sunshine Coast Health Precinct in Queensland.

Design/methodology/approach

The design of the study included desktop research, interviews with key stakeholders and site visits to 17 Australian hospital precincts and four North American health precincts.

Findings

As with most major developments, there are no hard and fast rules in approach as the context would be different for every project. However, there are numerous aspects that can be generalised when developing such major hospital precincts. Often a key starting point is the understanding and alignment of the desired outcomes of the multiple stakeholders and their limitations. These issues can be categorised in three general areas: (1) higher order linkages, (2) physical considerations, and (3) basic fundamentals.

Research limitations/implications (if applicable)

The limitations of this research paper is the available public data to gather the history and basic data of each development and hence, observations and information gather from key stakeholders had to be relied on.

Takeaway for practice (if applicable)

The building and sustaining of a health precinct is a complex and long term. However, decisions can be made upfront to create a framework that is adaptable and resilient to changing demands. This research highlights the need to understand the context and economic development opportunity such major public infrastructure provides.

Originality/value

Hospital precinct development is often heavily focused on the physical aspects and viewed from primarily from an architectural and planning perspective. This research widens this scope to include the drivers, challenges and context of the projects.

Keywords: health precincts, Sunshine Coast, university hospitals

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