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# Lendlease to build campus retiree living

Ingrid Fuary-Wagner

After 14 months of negotiations, Lendlease this week officially signed up to build retirement living units on campus at the University of Wollongong as part of a \$500 million state-of-the-art health and wellbeing precinct to be developed by the tertiary institution announced in 2018.

The new partnership will have the design and development of a 7.5-hectare precinct that will include 199 independent retirement units and a 126-bed residential aged care facility.

An 80-place childcare centre and recreational facilities will also be built as part of the new development. The focus of the project is the university's "intoHealth" clinic, which has been modelled on the Mayo Clinic, a non-profit academic medical centre in the United States that combines clinical practice, education and research.

"This project demonstrates the community benefits that can result from

close interaction between a major research-intensive university, industry and primary healthcare providers," University of Wollongong vice-chancellor Professor Paul Wellings CBE said.

"The health and wellbeing precinct is a transformative project that will focus on one of the great challenges of our time – an ageing population – and deliver novel research and education solutions," Professor Wellings said.

"Having carefully selected our development partner via a transparent, open-market process and then explored every aspect of the project in our negotiations, the university is very confident we can work with Lendlease to deliver our shared vision for this ambitious undertaking," he said.

Lendlease managing director of retirement living Tony Randello said local residents would benefit from

research taking place on their doorstep.

"And, as our residents' needs change over time, they can move into the on-campus aged care facility and continue to see the same doctor," Mr Randello said.

"Social isolation is one of the biggest issues facing older Australians.

"Our residents will have the ability to interact with people of all ages that will visit the precinct daily for classes, healthcare or childcare, in addition to the students living at the university full time," he said.

Australian universities own some of the most valuable inner-city land nationwide and are increasingly turning their attention to developing their property assets, with an estimated

\$10 billion or more in the pipeline of projects under way in Australia's higher education sector.

A surge in international students has created more competition among universities to have the cutting edge facilities and impressive faculty buildings, as well as enough accommodation for students, to soak up an increase in demand.

Last year, four universities – Newcastle, UNSW, Wollongong and Western Sydney – announced they would join forces to develop a world-class science and technology hub as part of the Aerotropolis precinct being built at Sydney's Badgerys Creek.

## Social isolation is one of the biggest issues facing older Australians.

Tony Randello, Lendlease



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A health and wellbeing precinct will be built by Lendlease on campus at the University of Wollongong.