

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL

CONSTRUCTION

MAJOR PROJECT REVIEW

HANSEN YUNCKEN'S
**PATRICK
PORT
BOTANY**
DEVELOPMENT
REVOLUTIONISES
SHIPPING IN NSW



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A VERY THERAPEUTIC APPROACH

The \$67 million Professor Marie Bashir Centre is the latest redevelopment of the hospital's North West Precinct on Missenden Road providing 73 mental health beds including a 6-bed Short Stay Mental Health Unit and research facilities.

As one of Australia's leading teaching hospitals, Royal Prince Alfred in Camperdown continues to expand its facilities and services in response to the community, providing training resources and opportunities for students. The \$67 million project is a collaboration between Health Infrastructure, Sydney Local Health District and The University of Sydney. The project was led by Health Infrastructure, the government agency tasked with delivering hospital redevelopments across NSW.

The purpose built facility has a total of 73 mental health beds including six short stay and seven research beds. The building also houses an eating disorders day program, physical therapies suite, shell space for ambulatory care services and office accommodation.

Health Infrastructure played a key co-ordination role between stakeholders to ensure delivery was on time, on budget and consistent with applicable Government approvals and policy. Furthermore Health Infrastructure provided professional and technical advice, support and assistance. This large scale project exceeded 400,000 contractor work hours with over 260 men on site.

Health Infrastructure's Senior Project Director Amanda Bock describes the features of the design and the importance functionality played in delivering this mental healthcare facility. "From a health perspective, the main innovation is around the model of care and its manifestation in the built form which provides a new and fresh approach to mental health treatment. The design of the facility provides for a therapeutic approach with patients afforded a level of independence and privacy."

"Whilst patient protection is utmost, careful attention to detail and a collaborative approach between the development team and users, the patients are able to control their own environments to a greater extent."

Further design aspects range from selection of materials and finishes being more akin to a domestic setting rather than a custodial environment. For example natural lighting and connection to the outside has been optimised, through the inclusion of courtyards. These spaces offer a therapeutic setting and maintain both segregation and a sense of privacy. Staff stations are open to patients, ensuring a high level of interaction with patients rather than being enclosed in a 'glass box'.

User-group consultation played a key role in providing valuable feedback early in the design. "The user group process was critical to ensure that the design provided contemporary models of care," Ms Bock said. "Once the key parameters were established, Health Infrastructure engaged Richard Crookes Construction to assist in finalizing the design. "This allowed us to use their expertise and skills



DEVELOPER : Health Infrastructure
PROJECT MANAGER : Savills Project Management
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Richard Crookes Constructions
ARCHITECT : Peckvohartel and Silver Thomas Hanley
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER : SCP Consulting

in construction to finalise the design and deliver the building in a more seamless approach. This process ensured that what we had designed could be built in the manner in which we had envisioned, in line with our timeframe and budget expectations". Ms Bock said.

One of the biggest challenges was to ensure the development considered the future master planning for the campus. The original planning and layout of the facility was updated to optimize the space available and provide opportunities for other complementary facilities to be built on the campus at a later date.

One of the many advantages of having Health Infrastructure deliver the states significant health care capital works program, is being able

to share learning's from project to project and drive innovation and efficiencies from those learning's.

"The lessons learnt from this facility and resolution of design issues can easily be replicated into new mental health facilities. This impacts from both planning and design through to construction, with Health Infrastructure's ability to replicate construction techniques and innovation across projects to improve efficiencies" comments Amanda Bock.

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