Redevelopment Team Visits Melbourne Cancer Centre

Last week members of the Project Planning Team visited the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) project as it moves into the operational commissioning phase.

The VCCC project is the result of collaboration between three Victorian health disciplines; The Royal Melbourne Hospital, The Royal Women’s Hospital and The MacCallum Cancer Centre.

“The VCCC’s service model is built on a partnership with between three major health facilities and this was of particular focus for us during the visit,” project director Deanne Turner said. “Learning about the collaborations between health services to deliver a fully integrated user experience for the patient was invaluable. At Westmead we have a similar challenge with our large and diverse group of stakeholders so it’s useful to look at some processes and practices of integration that are being used in other redevelopment projects.”

The team’s tour of the VCCC facility also focused on the enabling investment in ICT and vertical hospital design philosophies which were implemented to address the site constraints, challenges and opportunities of a multi-storey healthcare centre.

“Many of the challenges identified by the VCCC planning team are similar to those which we are currently working through at Westmead on the central acute services building,” project director Peter Lawless said. “The VCCC is a thirteen storey building including a range of high-end diagnostic, interventional and education, training and research services. Vertically stacking departments (as opposed to side-by-side) reduces travel distances and can make wayfinding easier. It is enabled by modern lift systems that stream flows to different services through the lift scheduling system and take users straight to their destination. Getting the number of lifts right is important as well as separating public, clinical and other flows via separate lift cores and corridors. ICT enabled appointment scheduling, registration and check-in systems also play their part enabling patients and their carers’ to wait in centralised retail and other amenity areas and only proceeding to their appointments when they are close to being seen.”

Construction of the new central acute services building will commence later this year. Site preparations are currently underway as a part of the main enabling works package which is conducting preliminary works prior to the isolation of the site. The central acute services building will be completed by 2020.
You may have noticed new cooling towers appearing on the roof of the ICMPR building as a part of the Westmead Redevelopment early and enabling works. The new cooling towers will be co-located with the existing central energy plant and the chilled water supply which is currently located within the plant room of the ICMPR building. This location was also chosen so that the cooling tower discharge is further away from any outside ventilation air intakes. The new towers will allow for full safe inspection and servicing of the units as well as the ability to take one at a time off line for cleaning, which the current towers are unable to do.

The first half of the works were completed on Saturday 28 May with the final installation occurring on Saturday 4 June.