



THE 'STARS' BUILDING LIGHTS THE WAY IN HEALTH

182 PATIENT BEDS
3 ENDOSCOPY SUITES
100 SPECIALIST REHABILITATION BEDS
444 CARPARKS
68 SURGICAL IN PATIENT BEDS
0 LOST TIME INJURY
7 OPERATING THEATRES
1.4 MILLION HOURS WORKED

SURGICAL, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICE (STARS) BUILDING, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

THE COMPLETION OF THE MUCH-AWAITED HIGHLY SPECIALISED SURGICAL, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICE (STARS) BUILDING IN A NEW HEALTH PRECINCT IN BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA, CEMENTS BESIX WATPAC'S EXPERTISE IN BUILDING MODERN HEALTH FACILITIES.

The 35,000 m² STARS building is the first to be completed as part of the redevelopment of Herston Quarter – an expansive 1.1 billion Australian dollars health and wellbeing precinct, two kilometres north of the Brisbane CBD and adjacent to the existing Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH).

Project Director Adrian Jones said the four-year project had resulted in a connected health environment which was designed to improve both the experience and outcomes of patients recovering from surgery.

"It was designed to swap sterile, clinical environments for a bright and welcoming setting, recognising the benefits of natural light and access to green spaces to improve recovery times. It also highlights the benefit of uninterrupted care where patients can stay in the same place and see the same medical staff in a safe and familiar environment," he said.

// Project details

SURGICAL, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICE (STARS) BUILDING

Location
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Client
Australian Unity

Contract type
PPP – Design & Construct

Construction Period
2016-2020

Contract value
405 million Australian dollars

"This exceptional facility was delivered on time and on budget and is a great example of BESIX Watpac's capability in the health sector."

The project included the new 182-bed STARS building, Spanish Steps and a sky-bridge linking the building to the RBWH. The works also included a 68-bed surgical and endoscopic inpatient facility with seven operating theatres, an imaging department including MRI, CT and X-Ray facilities, three endoscopy procedure rooms plus recovery spaces. The endoscopy procedure rooms have been designed to allow them to be quickly converted to an operating theatre in case of a major emergency.

The facility also features a range of places for people to interact and includes dining areas that break out on to rooftop decks and courtyards, plus extra retail and dining options.

"STARS successfully integrates the old and new through maintaining heritage structures on site while ensuring that during construction there was no disruption to mission-critical health services and research in relation to power and security services – quite a feat over the building timeframe," Adrian said.

Importantly, the project was delivered lost time injury free with almost 1.4 million hours worked – a remarkable result that the team worked hard to achieve.

"In addition to an open safety culture, the team introduced several innovations that enhanced safety on site," Adrian said. "These included altering methodologies such as switching from in-situ to precast concrete, as well as developing a precast stair box platform that mitigated risks and improved access to live decks. Silica dust, volatile organic compound training and FIT testing were also introduced to reduce risks to workers."



Mark Pratt, Executive General Manager Real Estate Investment at Australian Unity continued: "It's rewarding to realise the vision of a facility that was conceived many years ago. As the first public hospital in Australia to be funded by investors in a real estate investment trust, STARS is an example of how capital and real estate partnerships can support the infrastructure and services that serve our communities".

Herston Quarter is located within the Herston Health Precinct which includes RBWH, the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute.

// Innovation

Space under the 'Spanish Steps' was re-engineered to extend the existing car park facility and increase the number of lettable car spaces, for better return on investment for Australian Unity. A further area under the stairs was released to house a stormwater retention tank, to avoid excavating the tank into rock. This resulted in significant cost savings and a smarter use of structural space.

// Building through a pandemic

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, BESIX Watpac's peak workforce of 380 people on site responded quickly and effectively. Several initiatives were introduced including staggered shift starts and breaks, additional hygiene stations, more frequent cleaning and regular risk assessments. Specific activities were rescheduled where social distancing was difficult. BESIX Watpac worked closely with its supply chain to mitigate delays to materials and sterilising equipment.