









HEALTH IN THE HUNTER REGION

alvary Mater Hospital, Newcastle, situated in Waratah in the heart of the Hunter region, provides top quality health services to people of the Hunter and New England regions and Country NSW. It holds about 200 beds, and is fully accredited by the Australian Council on Health Care Standards.

The Hospital is one of only two hospitals left in NSW that are affiliated under the Health Services Act. Operated by the Sisters of Mercy (Singleton), who have been involved in health care for the people of the Hunter region since 1921, it is the region's major centre for oncology (cancer) services, haematology and clinical toxicology. These services are supported by an intensive care unit, general and oncological surgery, general medicine and palliative care, diagnosis and treatment of blood diseases, breast cancer and melanoma on a regional level, and a wide range of district hospital activities that include a busy emergency department supported by clinical and non-clinical services. It also contains one of only two stroke units in NSW, with a four bed acute stroke unit attached to an eight bed enablement unit, providing a seamless care approach to stroke treatment and assessment for people

In continuation of this tradition of excellence, the NSW Treasury awarded a contract for the A\$161.3 million redevelopment project to the NovaCare Consortium, which consists of Abigroup Contractors, Compass Group, Honeywell and Westpac. NovaCare Health Solutions Pty Limited in turn let a construction contract to Abigroup Contractors. Abigroup Contractors is one of Australia's leading civil engineering and building companies, and has built a strong and supportive client base in both the public and private sectors through its operations. Its activities span Australia, and it has a proud record of consistent performance, commitment to excellence, and delivery of high quality, innovative and cost-effective solutions to every client.

The redevelopment project at the Mater consists of a new 96-bed acute mental health facility, including 10 extra acute mental health beds, to replace existing facilities at James Fletcher Hospital. It also includes general redevelopment of the Hospital - involving demolition of sections of the Hospital and the construction of a new operations facility, as well as the refurbishment of the Convent and McAuley wards

- and construction of two extra radiation therapy bunkers and linear accelerators. The project is scheduled for completion in June 2009.

Abigroup's building division has been active in Australia's property development and construction industry for almost half a century. The years of experience thus gained have helped to develop a service offering into a solid product line devised to offer mutually rewarding outcomes for all stakeholders involved in its projects. It is currently undertaking infrastructure and building projects of major significance throughout NSW.

Clients, communities and future residents all benefit from Abigroup's commitment to quality, safety, environmental considerations, strong project economic management and financial stability. It delivers finished projects of the highest quality with professionalism while adhering to strict time, budgetary and design requirements (a Professional Development Program undertaken with Engineers Australia provides further support to the development of its project teams).

Abigroup Contractors offers a flexible approach to clients, being prepared to tender on a "hard dollar" basis; to undertake integrated design and construct; to provide design, construction and finance; to work under a maximum price agreement; to enter into alliance and partnering agreements; or to act as managing contractor.

The company's past building record includes healthcare facilities, hotels and resorts, airports, educational institutions, major commercial offices, residential developments, works at Queensland University, and the Pacific Square shopping and residential complex in Maroubra, NSW. They include the SuperDome built for the Sydney 2000 Olympics, which has the largest unsupported roof in the Southern Hemisphere.

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ATTRACTIVE AND SAFE OUTLOOKS

enovating and redeveloping a hospital that continues to operate on a X 24-hour, 7 day week basis during the process, as the Mater Hospital does, poses considerable time and performance pressures on both main and sub-contractors. Superior Windows, the firm currently supplying and installing windows and curtain walling to the Mental Health Unit and North Block of the redevelopment project, liaises closely with Abigroup Contractors, the main building contractor, which is obliged to follow a tight program.

Superior Windows previously successfully completed window and curtain wall installations for the South Block building of the Hospital. The size of its current contract is about \$2M including curtain walling. The Mental Health Unit poses particular difficulties for window design, involving toughened laminated glass and the development of innovative window fittings conforming to anti-ligature ("no hanging") requirements. These include truncated cone operating knobs for adjustment of venetian blinds located in double glazed windows, and the use of continuous piano hinging for sashes to eliminate "knuckles" produced by conventional hinges.











Other special requirements included the provision of special sealed double-glazed window units in the Intensive Care Unit. These windows are fitted with internal venetian blinds operated by magnet swipe. In all, the project involved seven different types of glass ranging from comfort glass (which features an applied film to limit solar loads, with beneficial effects on air conditioning costs), through to Digiglass featuring printed interlayers between sheets of laminated glass (the interlayers are produced to artistic designs selected by the project architect). The total area of windows and glazing involved in the project, including curtain walls, is of the order of 3000m2. The company's project manager is Mr Justin Lawrence, acting under the direction of Mr Neil Robertson.

Superior Windows has completed many major projects in institutional, commercial and residential fields. These include several buildings at Breakfast Point, Sydney (two 9 storey buildings), Coffs Harbour TAFE, Wellington Gaol, Mullimbimby High School and Ermington Aged Care Facility. The company undertakes projects extending over the full length of the east coast of New South Wales, from Kingscliffe to Eden, and takes pride in its quality range of products and competitive prices. Customer satisfaction is its number one priority.

The Mater Redevelopment project is an excellent example of the company's ability to produce custom-made windows, and the level of innovation it has shown indicates clearly that special window designs are no problem for it. It has a wealth of experience in meeting the design requests of homeowners and designers, with windows of unusual shapes or sizes - curved, raked, arched, faceted, stepped and decorative shapes - being nothing out of the ordinary.

The company has been operating for more than 20 years and currently employs over 40 people. It specialises in the production of residential and commercial windows and doors, as well as glass and aluminium facades and curtain walls. Its standard product range includes most conventional types of windows, such as awning, bi-fold, sashless, bay, double hung, and sliding styles, but it is in its ability to manufacture custom-designed windows that it takes special pride.

The company is approved by the NSW Department of Commerce as a fabricator of the Public Works suite of windows, which are used throughout NSW Schools. Its factory on the corner of Thomas Street and Superior Avenue at Edgeworth on Lake Macquarie now includes a new computer-aided machining, greatly enhancing its production processes. On display in the nearby modern showroom, open from 8.00am till 5.00pm weekdays, are examples of its standard products range of windows and doors. Quotes are available on an obligation free basis.

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The Mater Hospital provides surgical and intensive care services, and I reliability of its electrical power supply is of paramount importance. The electrical contractor for the redevelopment project is Downer EDI Engineering, which, apart from installing normal electrical networks, has paid particular attention to provision of a completely reliable emergency power system to the Hospital. This system allows seamless transfer of all electrical loads to inhouse generating equipment when external mains power outages occur, ensuring no impact whatsoever on hospital services and computer systems. Downer Engineering are responsible for all electrical services to the newly constructed and refurbished areas of the Hospital. This includes general light and power, emergency systems, access control, security, fire, Nursecall, MATV and communications.

Downer EDI Engineering is part of the Downer EDI Limited group and is a large well-known company. The group's annual revenue from engineering, mining and associated activities exceeds \$5 billion.



DOWNER EDI ENGINEERING

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CROSSING NEW QUALITY THRESHOLDS

orth Coast Commercial Doors (NCCD) is the supplier and installer of doors and doorframes on the Mater project. Initially brought in to the project to solve a problem encountered by the main contractor on the South Building, this company's work has since expanded to include doors for the North, Convent and McAuley Buildings.

NCCD began operations seven years ago and operates on the Mid-North Coast and North Coast of NSW. Since then it has worked on a variety of projects from club renovation through to full hospital installations, and has established strong working relationships with a number of large commercial builders. It has a very efficient installation and service team whose members have a total of forty years experience in the field.

The company designs and manufactures a wide variety of doors from hollow core, solid core and fire doors (AS 1905.1.2005) through to their specialized range eg.(Seclusion room door that incorporates an internal steel frame and integral Venetian for mental health purposes.) including the fitting of fire control devices. The company offers a complete package service, from quotation to design, through to supply and installation of metal and timber doors and frames, followed by hardware supply and fixing. In addition NCCD offers an inspection service (as to AS1851-2005), checking and reporting on the maintenance of fire safety doors to ensure their correct operation at all times.

All doors are manufactured to relevant Australian Standards, and installation is carried out in accordance with AS1909-1984. The company operates a manufacturing facility at Port Macquarie, where it has the capacity to produce a large quantity of doors per day, in lengths of up to three meters. NCCD has modern equipment and techniques enabling clients the option of architecturally or personally designed shallow or deep face routering and glazing of doors. A showroom at the Port Macquarie factory displays door designs and hardware types, and a staff of seven is available to handle quotation and service enquiries.

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