

# QEII HOSPITAL PROJECT

## CASE STUDY

### *The company*

Independent Fire Doors Pty Ltd (IFD) specialises in the manufacture, supply and installation of fire doors and frames. Founded in 1985 by George Page, IFD employed approximately 12 people and operated out of a large workshop in Darra. As of July 1 2008, IFD became a division of Firemex Pty Ltd and operates out of two separate workshops; one in Meadowbrook where it that fabricates metal door frames, and another workshop in Salisbury where it assembles wooden doors.

### *The opportunity*

The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital (QEII) has been flagged as a focal service site for the Queensland Government's Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Strategy. From an election commitment made in 2006, the State Government defined the need to expand QEII's current facilities by providing:

- an expansion of the elective surgery facility
- a 30 bed surgical ward to be used mainly for the treatment of elective orthopaedic patients;
- one additional operating theatre to support the opening of new patient beds;
- an expansion of the Central Sterilising Services Department;
- additional facilities for allied health rehabilitation services and specialist outpatient clinics.

A project budget of \$30 million capital was committed for the refurbishment of the identified areas, with an additional \$4.5 million budget allocation identified for building services up-grades within the hospital.

Construction commenced in August 2008 and the project was completed in June 2009. The scope of work included:

- refurbishing and reconfiguring the space currently used on Level 1 to accommodate Outpatients and Allied Health facilities
- moving the Day Surgery functions from Level 3 and integrate them with the Operating Suite on Level 2 (in the area previously occupied by Medical Records)
- creating day only/recovery beds on Level 2 to service the increased activity
- integrating the Endoscopy Services (which are currently collocated with the Operating Suite on Level 2 in inefficient space) with Operating Suite services so that an improved, efficient service can be provided; Expand the Central Sterilising Services Department to cope with the extra activity
- creating 30 overnight/long stay beds
- relocating administration, community health and operational staff (who are currently located on Level 5) to off-site leased space with Project Services Office Interiors arranging this work
- upgrading identified infrastructure deficits necessary to implement the upgrade

Responsible for some of Australia's most iconic developments, Watpac was the head contractor for the QEII project. Watpac's Project Manager Chris Cresswell said ICN's assistance in sourcing suppliers for the QEII hospital project had been helpful and the network's ongoing support throughout the construction phase had been great.



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*QEII Hospital, Coopers Plains*

ICN Queensland's Government Projects Coordinator, Soumen Dutta said "ICN assisted Watpac to develop a Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP) which outlined the approach Watpac would implement in providing tender opportunities for Queensland and Australian companies that could potentially work on the project. The plan guides Watpac with its procurement strategy and processes and demonstrates its commitment to engage, wherever feasible, services, products and equipment of Queensland-based industry. We're also provided 6 monthly progress reports for Watpac, which analysed its compliance with Local Industry Policy (LIP)."

### *The benefits*

IFD won the contract to supply and install both internal and external (fire) doors and frames. IFD's General Manager George Page said "we did the doors and frames for levels 2, 3 and 5 of the QE11 hospital upgrade. The contract was one of our medium sized jobs (worth \$158K) and took approximately 9 months to deliver. All of our doors are manufactured onsite at our Salisbury workshop, and frames are fabricated at our Meadowbrook workshop. We keep our timber work and metal work separate to avoid confusion and time wastage."

IFD has been a long-standing client of Watpac and has supplied doors and frames for over 90% of its projects. Page said "because of our relationship with Watpac and our expertise, we are one of its preferred suppliers. However, ICN's nomination for the project was a vote of confidence and has the potential to generate more business in the future, especially with companies we have not yet worked with."

Its services are also valuable for local companies that want to work on major projects and have not yet had the opportunity. It's really important to support Queensland industry and we do our part by sourcing all the material for doors and frames locally."

According to the Manufacturing Sector Impacts Report 2007, compiled by ICN Queensland and Australian Economic Consultants Group, every \$1 million of manufacturing business retained in Australia or freshly generated by Australian companies creates 12 full-time jobs.

Every \$1 million of manufacturing business retained or generated by Australian manufacturers also generates \$394,000 in taxes and charges, which benefits Australians as the government can re-inject it into the economy.

For more information or advice, please contact:

Steve Jones - Manager Government Projects

Phone: (07) 3364 0760

Email: [steve.jones@icnqld.org.au](mailto:steve.jones@icnqld.org.au)

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