

# GROWING HEALTHY

CLIENT : Barwon Health  
MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Kane Constructions Pty Ltd  
ARCHITECT : Silver Thomas Hanley Architects Pty Ltd  
PROJECT VALUE : \$128 million



The \$128M University Hospital Geelong Major Upgrade Works includes refurbishments and upgrades to facilities and wards, addressing the immediate needs of Barwon Health.

**Kane Constructions can almost taste the end of the redevelopment of Geelong Hospital.** Since 2010, Kane have delivered six modules of work to enhance and expand the hospital's facilities, and are now working on the final seventh.

Their work began with two concurrent projects: an office conversion and fit-out from the previous emergency department, and construction of a 24-bed acute inpatient ward. Existing operating theatres were then also refurbished, along with an 8-bed expansion of the hospital's Sawston Centre Mental Health Facility.

In 2012 Kane commenced a fourth module of work, the extension of Geelong's outpatient building including demolition, building a single storey structure and refitting interiors into an outpatient's annex. The executive and finance department, who had been temporarily relocated to this site whilst their new accommodation was being built, moved again to new offices. Multiple movements of hospital teams and facilities highlight the challenge integral to this build: providing a seamless transition into new and extended hospital facilities, whilst enabling continuance of critical hospital functions. Kane's planning and logistics has meant several moves for core hospital services without compromising vital functionality.

Kane's next job was to build a four storey ICU building. Part way through, additional funding expanded the scope to seven storeys, with a plant room and helipad at levels 8 and 9 respectively. The new construction will yield a 96-bed inpatient ICU. The work has included retention and foundation piling, construction and fit-out, plus installation of a new substation, generator and switchboard. The resulting 'Baxter Wing' will comprise a four level emergency department with a medical assessment unit on level 1 plus intensive care. Construction of the helipad is Kane's seventh project element, currently in design phase with expected delivery November 2015.

The hospital expansion also includes development of two levels for supportive care services for cancer patients, including 32 oncology beds and 24 palliative care beds. The design offers flexibility for expansion of emergency and acute care services to meet the

growing demands of the Barwon Health region. The challenges of integrating the project's inter-related elements with concurrent hospital services are evident, but have been successfully managed by Kane's logistical expertise.

Kane undertook construction whilst the emergency department maintained normal operations. "The Baxter Wing involved demolition and constructing a new eight-storey building bang in the middle of an existing, operating hospital," explains Kane's Howard Dawson. "We had to relocate all hospital services because the existing structure housed all services including electricity, gas, chilled water. These core services were relocated and then relocated again as projects progressed."

Dawson considers the strength of delivery and their success has been due to a highly collaborative approach between all parties. He explains the close liaison with the hospital to arrive at a modular building approach that would ensure continuous hospital operations. "There has been a lot of logistical organisation and communications. We worked with very restricted access and were still constructing when the ICU was handed over. We required a tower crane and shared a delivery area with the hospital's loading dock for hospital goods. Good collaboration between all parties has made it happen with services uninterrupted."

Dawson is also proud that Kane used local products where possible. For example, despite the option of a fully-imported curtain wall, Kane approached local glass manufacturers, glaziers and aluminium extruders to maintain local community involvement. "We have a great history with Geelong and pushed for local procurement."

Kane is a privately owned commercial construction company with over 250 employees across the eastern seaboard involved in projects in Australia and overseas. Kane's annual turnover exceeds \$450 million and they offer a range of project management, design and construction services.

*For more information contact Kane Constructions Pty Ltd, Level 1, Building 1, 658 Church Street, Richmond VIC 3121, phone 03 8420 1200, fax 03 8420 1201, website [www.kane.com.au](http://www.kane.com.au)*