

# Challenges of a new hospital build

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## Background

Construction of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) commenced in 2011 and was completed in June 2016. Uniquely, this facility is a public-private partnership between government and the private sector: Plenary Health Consortium (facility owner) and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (facility operator).

The Centre employs over 2,500 staff, and provides inpatient, ambulatory and outpatient care, spanning haematology, medical oncology, radiation oncology and surgical oncology clinical services.

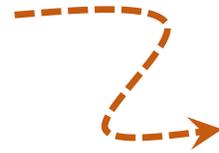


## Methods & Results

An Infection Prevention nurse consultant was seconded to assist with operational readiness and transitioning into the new facility. This involved multiple working groups. The role involved review of local, national and international guidelines and applying these principles to the new build.

*Key tasks* included:

- Placement of over 600 hand hygiene units
- Testing of theatre air supply
- Surveillance of equipment storage areas
- Monitoring air quality in high-risk inpatient areas
- Testing of ice making machines for *Legionella* sp.
- Oversight of final and clinical cleaning processes prior to commissioning of building
- Setting of pressure gradients 7 negative pressure rooms



*Challenges* included:

- New relationships - working with government, public/private partnership and understanding roles and responsibilities.
- Environmental sampling - the type of testing/assay to be used (air/swab) and the principles to be applied for testing rooms.
- Final clean – integrating required cleaning processes in a timely manner to correspond with building works and opening schedule.
- Mitigating risk for *Legionella* – water handling and cooling towers.

## Conclusions

- The role of the Infection Prevention nurse consultant is pivotal in relocation of a tertiary healthcare facility
- For immunocompromised patients, specialised consultation is required with respect to air and water handling systems, as well as specific construction elements (e.g. pressure gradients).