

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE WARRNAMBOOL, VICTORIA

The South West Regional Cancer Centre is a PPP project that was won by a consortium led by Epworth HealthCare. The Epworth HealthCare Consortium built and now operates the \$30 million facility, which will provide a broad range of facilities in a contemporary and welcoming environment including oncology and radiotherapy services, clinical consulting suites, therapy suites, pharmacy, administration areas and Peter's Project Supportive Care Centre. Two radiotherapy bunkers are provided (one shell for future use) and a CT Simulation Suite. The project scope also includes the design of a multi-deck car park on an adjacent site across Worland Grove providing 139 spaces.

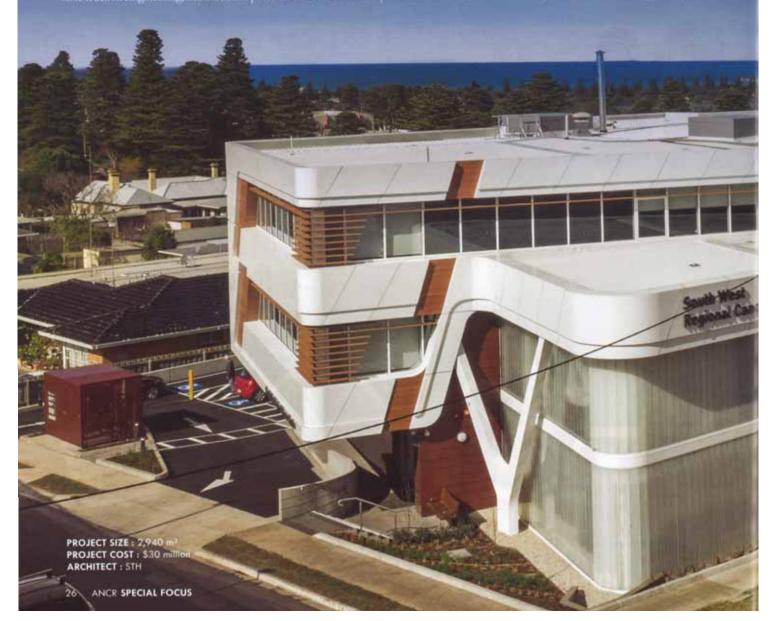
Funding for the project has been provided from both the Stare and Federal governments, supplying \$15 million and \$10 million respectively, with an additional \$5 million contributed by local community group Peter's Project. The facility has been designed to have the capacity to treat up to 500 patients a year from western Victoria and south-east South Australia.

Silver Thomas Hanley were the architects for the project. The whole process was incredibly satisfying from the design through to the construction, due to the positive and collaborative approach by all involved, particularly the Epworth project team, the contractors Construction Engineering, and the health professionals and community

that were part of the user group process. The architectural expression of the building was deliberate in its intent to signify a tertiary, stare of the art cancer centre. It has a contemporary, dramatic and curvilinear feel, and uses a mix of materials to create interest with white and red paneling (the latter referencing the opposite hospital's use of corten to mimic 'a rusted shipwreck coast.') The undulating curves of the façade give the building a feeling of softness and wellbeing enhanced by the timber soffits and window reveals, while expressing the technological sophistication of the interior fitout.

The design of the Centre uses Patient Centred Care as the core principle. Inviting and private areas for staff have also been created, so that staff can treat, work and relax in a secure and pleasant work environment. A holistic approach to the treatment of cancer has been embraced in the Centre. The site was a fantastic opportunity to maximise views to the sea and surrounding Norfolk Pines.

The interior of the Centre has a coastal theme with light colours, and a warm palette of pale timbers, carpets, and feature rugs. There is strong evidence that shows design with connection to nature encourages and supports the healing process and emotional wellbeing of the patients. This is provided in numerous ways; large windows to all rooms to maximise views of the sea and Norfolk Pines, accessible gardens and water features, views to the sky or sea in the Oncology Unit, with low



side service panels and bench seats so patients can attend with their carer and socialise with other patients if they desire. A large deck on Level 2 provides staff with a private retreat with sea views. A 3-level stairwell with 'profiled' glazing overlooking the garden connects the three floors.

Local artists have provided sculpture and photography through the centre, to reinforce the community connections. The maze into the radiotherapy bunker is treated as a gallery of 'images of Warrnambool' from local photographers.

The centre piece of the facility's focus on supportive care and healing is the Supportive Care Centre which is prominent with the use of double height 'profiled' glazing, 'This glass will 'glow' at night creating a beacon for the site, as well as providing maximum daylight and privacy to the occupants of the Supportive Care Centre, creating a calm and inviting environment inside. Solid timber floors, feature rugs, and a contemporary kitchen and lounge provide a place of respite to all visitors. The purpose of the Peter's Project SCC is to provide the people of South West Victoria with access to a place with services that address their social, psychological and cultural needs associated with a cancer diagnosis.

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