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National consulting engineer, SEMF, is rapidly building a reputation as a key provider of multi-disciplinary engineering design services to Australia's health sector. Its enviable track record includes completed works on multiple hospital extensions and refurbishments in Victoria over the past six years. These include the Brunswick Private Hospital, Traralgon Private Hospital, Alfred Hospital Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit, William Anglis Rehabilitation Facility, the Valley Private Hospital and Frankston Private Hospital. SEMF is also known for its work on the Hobart Private Hospital & Royal Hobart Hospital.

SEMF provided the electrical, mechanical and hydraulic engineering design, documentation and inspection for the entire Northpark Private Hospital redevelopment project. The redevelopment includes a new operating theatre complex, 30-bed ward, mental health unit, mother and baby unit, new reception area, main entrance, consulting rooms and suites. The project also catered for the refurbishment of the inpatient area.

A multi-disciplinary team of electrical, mechanical and hydraulic engineers, based at SEMF's Mulgrave office in Melbourne, worked on the Northpark Private Hospital project. The team of seven was led by Doug Smith.

Redevelopment of Northpark had to occur while still maintaining normal hospital operations. The project works were extensive and required upgrading and replacing almost all existing central plant and systems. This included:

- the central chilled water plant,
- central heating hot water plant,
- medical gas facilities and distribution,
- Relocation of the emergency generator,
- Site power supply and main switchboard,
- Fire Detection System,
- And Central Data and Telephony Systems.

Normal operation also had to be maintained while:

- Extending and refurbishing existing occupied maternity and mental health wards.
- Fully establishing three new operating theatres prior to shutting down the two existing operating theatres for refurbishment.
- Providing the temporary relocation of the existing CSSD prior to the establishment of a new CSSD.

- Establishing a temporary main entrance prior to establishing a new entrance area.
- Relocating consulting medical practitioners from four existing buildings to new temporary facilities. The four buildings were demolished and replaced with a single three-storey facility designed to cater for the expanding needs of the hospital.

Sustainability is at the forefront of all planning and engineering design works carried out by SEMF. Committed to providing exceptional service, SEMF helps its clients find the most energy and water efficient solution to maximise occupant comfort through improved use of natural light and fresh air.

SEMF's growing reputation in the health sector stems from:

- Having the full array of engineering professionals in-house which means the company can provide a fully integrated building engineering solution, pulling together the necessary mechanical, electrical, fire, fire safety, hydraulic, vertical transportation, structural and civil, environmental and OH&S services. As a result projects can be delivered smoothly, seamlessly and uniformly.
- Being able to source highly skilled engineers from SEMF offices across Australia to work on state-based projects.
 This means clients have access to the best possible team regardless of where the project is located.
- The ability to provide solutions to difficult and often complex requirements such as successfully applying new technologies to older infrastructure. This is important as a significant amount of work in the health sectors stems from extensions and refurbishment of older hospitals.
- SEMF's policy of future planning. This means presenting the client with design options that don't just meet existing minimum building codes and guidelines but go above and beyond and to take into consideration possible future changes. This is especially important for hospitals where best practise is viewed as essential and change is constant.

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Whelan the Wrecker was engaged by The Reed Group to carry out internal and external demolition works in preparation for the new improvement works at the Northpark Private Hospital.

Not unexpectedly, sound organisational skills were required on this project due to the challenges of working in the environment of an operating hospital where all stakeholders concerns needed to be factored into the planning.

At Whelan the Wrecker, the management are committed to enhancing the skills and output of their employees so that the challenges imposed by projects such as these can be overcome more efficiently leading to better end results and outcomes for their clients and the company as a whole. This also gives Whelan the Wrecker a competitive edge when tendering for such works.

The committed team at Whelan the Wrecker enjoys the capacity to perform all work safely and efficiently.

From large excavators to highly innovative Zero-Swing machines, allowing access to even the most confined areas, clients are assured the right machine is used for every aspect of each project.

With sustainability in mind, every opportunity to recycle is taken by the Whelan's team. "Waste" materials are transported to their designated Plant and graded for reuse. Crushed concrete for example is processed into a VicRoads approved road-base, drainage and hard-stand surface products. Every piece of metal, timber and glass is assessed for recycling or reuse.

Whelan the Wrecker was established by the Whelan family in 1892 and today we continue to enhance the reputation of the company as an industry leader in demolition, excavation and recycling within the commercial, industrial and residential demolition and bulk excavation markets.

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