



## Westmead Hospital - Children's Medical Research Institute

The Children's Medical Research Institute at Sydney's Westmead Hospital was the country's first paediatric medical research facility, opening in 1958. Over the years, its research has helped save the lives of thousands of children. An expansion of facilities has resulted in advances in the prevention and cure of childhood disease. Stage one involved the highly specialised delivery of a nine-storey research facility.

### Attention to detail and collaboration

Sydney-based precast manufacturer and National Precast member, Hanson Precast, played an important role in the redevelopment of this innovative facility, working in partnership with the project architect and builder.

The company manufactured precast concrete architectural panels for the façade, which was a combination of the precast concrete panels and glass. The panels have a light-coloured etched finish in quartz aggregate.

#### Precaster

Hanson Precast

#### Architect

Conrad Gargett Ancher  
Mortlock Woolley

#### Engineer

ARUP

#### Builder

AW Edwards Pty Ltd

[www.nationalprecast.com.au](http://www.nationalprecast.com.au)



"We worked with the architect to get a faceted look to finish the panel, while ensuring it still appears solid," said Hanson's Estimating and Sales Manager Richard Lorenzin.

Precast was ideal for this particular project because of the complicated shapes required by the architect. To create those shapes and the detailed finish, Hanson used custom-made moulds. Mr Lorenzin says tailor-making products is a core ability of the business and producing them is rewarding for the precast team. "This project was no exception. It's interesting and satisfying for the entire team to produce such a unique finished product that looks so good".

## Early involvement of precaster reaps rewards

The precaster was involved in the project right from the start, something which benefits the project as a whole. The partnership with the architect extended to simplify the requirements for the building. Mr Lorenzin says collaboration resulted in minimising the number of types and sizes of panels needed, which in turn reduced the amount of mouldings required.

As challenges arose, the company focused on solutions to ensure the construction timetable and process ran smoothly. "For example, there was an issue on site with the weight of the panels, so we created a recess in the back face to make them lighter," Mr Lorenzin said. Not only are the panels lighter, they are also striking in appearance.

## Smooth installation

As well as manufacturing the panels, Hanson installed them on the small construction site. "Some of the panels were quite large and had to be transported using specialised transportation equipment," commented Mr Lorenzin. "There was a challenge in installation, particularly with the ground floor panels. We had to install them after the structure was built. That meant more complex connection details and a meticulous process because of the risk of damaging panels as we got them into position, but it all went off without a hitch".

The result is a high quality and successful construction project to fulfil the critical purpose of medical research.

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