



**SYNOPSIS EDUCATION SESSION - HEALTH CARE FACILITY PLANNING &
RENOVATION – INFECTION CONTROL IMPLICATIONS 26th February, 2007**

Ray Basham, Senior Architect at Silver Thomas Hanley-Architects/Health Planners/Interior Designers, presented an informal presentation on Health care facility(HCF) planning and renovations. Ray has had much experience in this particular field of Architecture both in private and acute care health settings. Ray evoked much discussion surrounding this topic and presented a number of strategies contributing to the prevention & control to minimise the spread of infection as well as practical design advice.

Infection prevention and control requirements are critical to the planning of a HCF and need to be incorporated into plans and specification. Infection Control personnel must participate in the design process and monitor throughout the building/renovation stages to ensure all areas of the HSF that is constructed is in keeping with the principles of infection control. These principles are to be held in accordance with the 'Western Australia health Facility Guidelines for Infection Control May 2006' written by the WA Dept of Health. These guidelines can be found at website: <http://www.health.wa.gov.au/hrit/infrastructure/procedures/facility.cfm>.

Some issues discussed were:

- **Construction process**
Design may be compromised by costs allocated to project
Containment of area for dust/airborne contaminants control. Aspergillus spores
- **Building elements**
Adequate number of hand basins & placement
Taps with hands-free operation
Taps fitted with anti-splash back devices
Water towers/hot water - legionnaires
- **Physical environment**
Isolation rooms (spatial requirements, number of rooms, standard vs negative & positive pressure rooms)
Single vs multi-bed rooms (cohorting)
Ventilation & airconditioning (airflow & movement effects etc..)
Separation of "clean" and "dirty" work areas
Food preparation areas
Sanitisers vs macerators
- **Surfaces & finishes**
Nature & type of surfaces, impermeable, easy to clean floor coverings, gaps

References & further reading

1. New South Wales guidelines Nov 2006 'Australasian Health Care Facility Guidelines: Part D'.
2. Guidelines for the Classification and Design of Isolation Rooms in Health Care Facilities. Department of Human Services, Victoria, July 1999.
3. HB 260 – 2003. Handbook: Hospital acquired infections – Engineering down the risk, Standards Australia, 2003.
4. The Epic Project: Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections. Part 1 Guidelines for Preventing Hospital Acquired Infection - Standard Practices for Hand Hygiene, Journal of Hospital Infection, 2001 – 47 (Supplement), Sections 3-4.