



A.G.Coombs

Media Release

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Prefabrication Initiative Recognised by 2014 Victorian WorkCover Awards

A.G. Coombs has been presented with the “Best Solution to a Specific Workplace Health and Safety Issue” Award at this year’s Victorian WorkCover Authority Health and Safety Awards.

The Awards were announced in Melbourne on Thursday 9 October 2014.

The single biggest safety risk identified in the construction of many high-rise buildings is the installation of vertical services risers, with the potential for falls from height and exposure to materials/debris falling from above. Building services specialist A.G. Coombs has pioneered the introduction of large-scale prefabricated services risers in Australia.

The winning entry referenced the significant prefabrication works undertaken at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity; a complex new university building in Melbourne.

Principal Contractor Brookfield Multiplex completed the \$210 million PDI facility on behalf of the University of Melbourne. The Doherty rises 14 levels and provides 26,000 square metres of space including specialised laboratories, integrated teaching facilities, a 200 seat auditorium, office, and support areas. The state-of-the-art bio-medical institute accommodates around 700 expert scientists, researchers, clinicians, academics, staff and students. Construction spanned two years and was highly technical in nature. A.G. Coombs was responsible for the installation of mechanical services, air conditioning and ventilation systems and installed, what was at the time, the largest prefabricated services riser in Australia.

The Doherty risers entailed the off-site manufacture of 18 three-storey high sections containing air conditioning and ventilation ductwork, and pipework. These were transported to site and crane lifted into place to make up the 21-metre wide, 3-metre deep and 10-storey high services riser. This innovation resulted in the elimination of a very significant number of hours of complicated on-site work. The alternative would have been to construct the services one component at a time in the large vertical shaft with the attendant working-at-height risks and the related slip-trip-fall hazards associated with the manual handling of materials prior to installation.

A.G. Coombs is proud to have been recognised with this prestigious award. This new approach to services installation has significantly reduced construction risk on this landmark project and is set to become an industry standard in Australia.

For more on the Victorian WorkCover Authority Health and Safety Awards, visit <http://www.worksafeawards.com.au/>.

On major projects, A.G. Coombs’ prefabrication methodologies result in the transfer of thousands of hours of complicated site installation into a controlled factory environment, with the need to work at height in risers virtually eliminated. For more information on A.G. Coombs Projects’ prefabrication and building services capabilities, please contact Mark Mitchell, General Manager on telephone 03 9248 2700, or email mmitchell@agcoombs.com.au.

Image:



Hi-res image is available upon request.

A.G. Coombs Pty Ltd:

The A.G. Coombs Group is a privately owned Australian group of companies that provides an integrated range of technical services for all systems in buildings, from design through to installation, commissioning, maintenance and ongoing operation and management. Operating for over 65 years, A.G. Coombs has a national capability with major operations on Australia's eastern seaboard.

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