



The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Herston, Queensland's oldest hospital, has served as the anchor of the healthcare system since the 19th century. Built in 1867, with the women's wing later added in 1938, the hospital is currently undergoing the most complex capital upgrades in its history. The most notable of which is the multi-million dollar rooftop infrastructure modification atop the Dr James Mayne Building.

The facility treats thousands of patients daily, so shutting down operations to carry out structural upgrades was not an option. The unit's 24-hour emergency department takes trauma cases from all over the area and walk-ins. These patients rely on the hospital for the best care possible, which is why engineers are charged with executing intricate high-access work and utilise [rope access specialists](#) to get the job done safely and efficiently.

Core Upgrades

The Central Reprocessing Department (CRD) is the operational hub of every hospital's sterile environment, managing the decontamination, disinfection, inspection, and repackaging of instruments. Modern CRDs rely on multi-stage water filtration, heavy-duty steam sterilisers, and complex HVAC ventilation units. The complexity of this footprint, along with its weight, means that most of these systems are located in hidden voids or on rooftop platforms.

The CRD is the primary force driving the Dr James Mayne Building's rooftop overhaul. The centre's current sterile process capabilities have reached the end of the life cycle, and the only way to repair the bottleneck is with the new purpose-built CRD. Ultimately, when structural footprints expand and become restricted, they can no longer support the healthcare demands, and expansion is the only way forward.

High Level Access

High-level construction work presents monumental access issues, and traditional methods, such as scaffolding or mobile cranes, are often impractical. High access engineering is vital to the completion of the project, and using industrial rope access experts provides engineers and structural teams with the ability to get high-level work done safely.

Whether descending the facade to modify ventilation shafts or sealing structural expansion seams, a rope access team can execute the work while the hospital operates without disruption.

Multi-storey hospitals partner with compliant and experienced [rope access Brisbane](#) providers for window washing, signage maintenance and installation, and, more importantly, to facilitate efficient high-altitude builds and repairs. The team will coordinate with your facility engineers to execute infrastructure upgrades, and the life-saving procedures can continue uninterrupted below while the work continues above.