

# Shot in arm for healthcare

## Ainslie Chandler

Construction in the NSW healthcare sector will be bolstered by \$380 million this year with the development of a research facility aimed at combating obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease at the University of Sydney's Camperdown campus.

The NSW government has given development approval for the 45,000 square metre facility, which includes an eight-storey building with basement facilities and rooftop plant. The centre, expected to be completed in 2013, will be located between the university, the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and St John's College.

About 1140 staff will work at the centre, with 290 new medical research positions created.

Construction forecaster BCI Australia had previously tipped healthcare construction in the state to slump this year. It expected quarterly construction starts to peak at \$611 million in the third quarter. In 2009, construction starts peaked at more than \$1.2 billion in the third quarter.

Other major health projects set to start in the coming year include the new \$250 million Huntley Private Tertiary Hospital and the \$330 million redevelopment of Tamworth Hospital.