

St Andrews Hospital

Cancer Care Centre area and services to expand

A \$6.7 MILLION expansion of the St Andrew's Cancer Care Centre will commence early April 2011.

During 2010, the Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing awarding St Andrew's Hospital funding under the Health and Hospitals Fund - Regional Cancer Centres Initiative.

St Andrew's Hospital chief executive officer Ray Fairweather said the funding would allow the following expansions to the original cancer care centre to be undertaken:

→ Increase the floor area of the medical oncology unit taking capacity for day patients from 15 chairs to 25 chairs;

→ Increase the number of specialist consulting rooms for cancer specialists;

→ Construct a third bunker to house a third linear accelerator to treat radiation oncology patients and upgrade an existing linear accelerator;

→ Establish rooms to relocate the Cancer Research Centre to an area within the expanded cancer centre

"The St Andrew's Cancer Care Centre provides comprehensive range of cancer treatments and supportive care.

"Seamless co-ordination of the different phases of cancer treatment including medical and radiation oncology is facilitated by fortnightly head and neck, colorectal, lung and breast multi-disciplinary clinics."

The major challenge facing patients, staff and doctors with the building expansion is to maintain existing cancer services while the building contractor undertakes the necessary building expansion.

"Whilst there may be short periods of inconvenience, the end result for patients, staff and doctors will be a comfortable, easily accessible and totally integrated cancer centre focusing on the delivery of high quality patient care."

Hospital's cardiac catheter/vascular laboratory gets \$700,000 upgrade

ST ANDREW'S Toowoomba Hospital has invested \$700,000 in the latest technological equipment to investigate and diagnose patients with cardiovascular conditions.

With cardiovascular disease the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Queensland and the prevalence estimated to affect one in four by 2051, the hospital is committed to establishing a Centre for Cardiac Care for residents of the Toowoomba and Darling Downs Region.

Chief executive officer Ray Fairweather said the new cardiovascular equipment at St Andrew's Hospital replaced equipment purchased during 2002 when the cardiac catheter/vascular laboratory was established.

"The state-of-the-art equipment from Siemens provides technology which allows cardiologists to diagnose blockages to the heart and other conditions of the coronary system," he said.

"The new equipment also provides capacity for the hospital to increase cardiac services to an interventional level meaning coronary angioplasty and stenting of coronary arteries/vessels may soon be available at the hospital," he said.

One of the first patients to benefit from the new equipment was a patient who experienced a sudden onset of chest pain which was investigated by cardiologist, Dr Bob Ayres.

A coronary angiogram procedure was undertaken with the new equipment which outlined the



A coronary angiogram procedure is conducted in the cardiac catheter/vascular laboratory.

coronary arteries and identified which arteries were narrowed or blocked.

Mr Fairweather said early diagnosis enables cardiologists to determine whether patients require additional treatment or surgery.

"To date a total of 3,084 patients from the Toowoomba and Darling Downs Region have received coronary angiograms while a further 794 patients have been treated for

vascular procedures within the cardiac catheter/vascular laboratory.

"St Andrew's Hospital is the only hospital in Toowoomba with a cardiac catheter/vascular laboratory."

Mr Fairweather said that the hospital was well advanced in discussions with a number of vascular surgeons who had expressed interest in establishing full-time private practice at St Andrew's Toowoomba Hospital.

Red Socks program heads off falls

THE ageing of the Australian population has increased the number of persons at high risk of fall-related injuries.

Medical patients have been identified as being among these "high risk" people.

St Andrew's director of clinical services, Fiona Brown, said factors contributing to a medical patient being classified as high risk include their generalised deteriorated health, mobility and strength associated with ageing and many medical conditions.

Mrs Brown said St Andrew's Hospital had introduced the following strategies to reduce falls in the medical ward:

→ Falls risk analysis completed by the Physiotherapist on identified high risk patients;

→ Introduction of the REDuce falls sox provided by Gripsox.

"The RED-coloured GripSox were designed specifically to help staff

visually identify people who have been assessed as a high falls risk in the ward," said Mrs Brown.

Mrs Brown also said that evidence from the John Fawcner Private Hospital (JFPH) in Melbourne showed a massive 73 per cent reduction in patient falls utilising the innovative falls prevention socks.

St Andrew's Hospital has also purchased the innovative Red dot mobility system which is designed to identify a patient's mobility quickly.

The system is a one to four dot rating system clearly displayed above a patient's bed on a visible slide plate which allows staff to instantly determine a patient's mobility requirements.

"One dot identifies the patient can mobilise unassisted, four dots means they need full assistance," Mrs Brown said.

"Implementing these RED

initiatives will ensure St Andrew's Hospital is leading the way with falls prevention in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs Region."



GripSox are in use at St Andrew's and have been designed to identify high falls risk people.