

MEDIA RELEASE



Wednesday December 3, 2008

New incubator cot provides improved care for babies

The Mackay Mater Hospital has recently acquired a specialised incubator cot for special care newborn babies.

Ms Janene Moore, Nurse Coordinator of St Gerard's Women's Unit at the Mackay Mater Hospital, said that the \$22,700 Drager C2000 Incubator Cot is a welcome addition to the hospital.

"The new cot provides up- to- date technology in keeping sick and premature babies in a warm environment, which helps them to adapt to life after birth," Ms Moore said.

"The cot will be used for any newborn baby who requires oxygen therapy or phototherapy and also for any pre-term babies who are too small to control their own temperature.

"A major benefit of having this particular type of cot is that it can easily be placed in the mother's room. This ensures that the mother and her child are not separated for long periods of time at this vital bonding stage," Ms Moore added.

Ms Moore added that the inclusion of the new incubator cot means that technology at St Gerard's Women's Unit is now on par with larger hospitals throughout Queensland.

"Previously, if a baby was not responding well to treatment in our existing incubator cots, they may have required further, specialised treatment, in a larger hospital such as the Townsville General Hospital, " Mrs Moore said.

"The additional technology of the new incubator cot means that more babies in need can remain in Mackay for both treatment and recovery.

"This takes enormous pressure off parents and family at what can be a very stressful time," Mrs Moore said.

Ms Moore added that coinciding with the arrival of the new incubator cot, the Mater Hospital is hosting a Christmas party for parents of babies who required special care at St Gerard's throughout the year.

"Watching your newborn baby go through difficulties in such a fragile state can be a stressful experience for parents. This gathering is organised to celebrate the recovery of special care babies at this joyous time of year," Mrs Moore said.

More...



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“Approximately, 15 parents and their babies will attend this years’ Christmas party which will be held on Friday December 5 from 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm at the hospital’s meeting rooms

“These parents can share their experiences, catch up with the staff members who helped during their baby’s treatment and most importantly recognise and celebrate the recovery and growth of their infants.

“The Mater also conducts a focus group meeting on this occasion to get feedback from these parents about our neo-natal services and their birthing experiences at the Mater so we can address any opportunities to improve our services.

“The addition of the new incubator cot is testament to the Mackay Mater Hospital’s ongoing commitment to provide the Mackay community with the best possible health care service,” Ms Moore said.

St Gerard’s Women’s Unit at the Mackay Mater Hospital is a facility dedicated to the care of women, mothers and their newborn babies. The new incubator cot is in addition to 2 existing incubator cots in use in the Unit.

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