



MEDIA RELEASE

Children's Emergency fast tracks for a speedier service

Thanks to the generosity of the community, the Emergency Department at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick (SCH) underwent a facelift and upgrade to two areas of the busy department to better accommodate and provide quality care for their young patients.

On 1 May the Hon. Michael Daley, Minister for Maroubra officially opened the new Fast Tack System and upgrade in front of invited guests and sponsors. Many of the Hospital's valued supporters; Rotary Club of Sydney Cove, St Spyridon, Coogee Family Fun Day and Comedy For Kids, attended the opening to see how generous donations from the community can help enhance the Hospital's services.

The refurbishment has allowed the creation of a dedicated space for a new Fast Track System as well as three new beds for a greatly enhanced Observation area.

The SCH Fast Track system helps the Department better manage waiting times and patient cases, by assessing and treating children with easy to diagnose injuries in a dedicated area of the Department by a doctor and experienced nurse.

The Fast Track was built using funds raised by the community through the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation. Since its opening three months ago, more than 1000 children have been treated for a range of childhood accidents from sprained ankles, lacerations and broken bones to peas stuck up their noses.

The Department rosters the Fast Track system for 10 hours each day with a dedicated paediatric emergency nurse, doctor and nurse practitioner who independently manages the children's care, with the goal to make the whole Department run more smoothly and efficiently.

The Emergency Department has also used the generously donated funds to expand the Department and accommodate three more beds and create an extended Observation area to cope with rising patient numbers. Over the past four years presentations to the Emergency Department has risen by 30 per cent, and the new area is the first step in what is a bigger plan for the future of the Emergency Department.

"These changes are temporary measures that increase our capacity as we plan for a Department that will meet the rising needs of our patients and their families," said Dr Matthew O'Meara, Head of Emergency, SCH.

"We are very grateful for the generosity of the community who have provided the funds we needed to make these upgrades and changes," Dr O'Meara said.

Adam Check, CEO Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation said, "The changes at the Emergency Department are fantastic and highlight the important, tangible difference that donations make to help the Hospital and the children they care for."

"However, we must continue to address the long-term needs of the Hospital's Emergency Department as a major reconstruction of the facility will be required to accommodate the increasing patient presentations that the Department is experiencing," Adam Check said.

For more information and to set up an interview or photo shoot please contact:

Kate Meikle

Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation

Ph: 9382 1188 Mob: 0412 641 611 Email: kate.meikle@schf.org.au