

*Dr Bob Ayres demonstrating
the new Artis Zee technology
in the Cardiac Catheter
Laboratory at St Andrew's
Toowoomba Hospital*



Advances in Cardiac Care

St Andrew's Toowoomba Hospital upgrades
its cardiac equipment to improve services



Chief Executive Officer Mr Ray Fairweather said the new equipment, the Artis Zee Coronary Angiography System, is an upgrade to the existing Cardiac Catheter/Vascular Laboratory, opened in 2002. The Artis Zee is technologically advanced equipment that assists in the management and early intervention of patients with acute cardiology and vascular problems.

“This state-of-the-art equipment from Siemens allows cardiologists to diagnose blockages to the heart and other conditions of the coronary system and vascular surgeons to perform procedures on the vascular system,” said Mr Fairweather.

The new equipment also provides capacity for the hospital to increase cardiac services to an interventional level, allowing for coronary angioplasty and stenting of coronary arteries/vessels. The recent arrival places St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital at the forefront of technology for cardiac care in Toowoomba. The hospital is negotiating to expand the service to provide an interventional cardiac service and reduce the need for patients to travel to Brisbane.

a range of conditions with extreme accuracy. Toowoomba is very fortunate to have this technology available to patients locally.

“A significant number of patients with coronary artery disease are treated every year at St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital. Patients come from as far afield as Longreach and Charleville to utilise this advanced technology,” said Mr Fairweather.

St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital is renowned for expanding services to meet the needs of the local community. In 2002 the hospital built the only Cancer Care Centre in Toowoomba with medical oncology and radiation oncology services. The Cancer Care Centre is now the largest inland Centre of its kind and due to unprecedented demand is set to double in size in 2012.

“We see a similar need developing in Cardiac Care Services in Toowoomba, as we did with Cancer Care. With our large catchment from rural areas and an ageing population, Toowoomba is well placed to provide a quality cardiac service,” said Mr Fairweather.

As part of the St Andrew’s Cardiac Care Service patients who are recovering from

“ THE TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS DOCTORS TO PERFORM PROCEDURES MORE ACCURATELY ”

“We have a number of leading cardiologists who treat patients at St Andrew’s and utilise this equipment on a daily basis,” said Mr Fairweather. “The doctors are delighted with the upgrade to the Cath Lab as the new technology allows them to visualise blood vessels and devices more clearly, increasing their confidence in diagnosis and allowing them to perform procedures more accurately.”

In addition, St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital is the first private hospital in Queensland to have the latest technology in CT imaging, a new 256-slice CT machine installed by Queensland X-Ray Service.

The new 256-slice CT machine from Phillips is one of the best available in Australia and has advanced to provide precise imaging of whole organs such as the heart and liver and allows radiologists to diagnose

bypass surgery or cardiac conditions can benefit from the St Andrew’s Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. The right rehabilitation program will help most heart patients reduce their risk of further coronary heart disease. The program gives patients information, education, physical activity and a friendly supportive environment.

St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital has a very strong reputation in the local community and was recognised through a Medibank Private survey, rating the hospital in the top four in Queensland for patient care. The hospital prides itself on maintaining this status with members of the community.

St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital continues to lead the way in healthcare in Toowoomba, focusing on growth of core services. [PH](#)
By Louise Cuskelly

ST ANDREW’S Toowoomba Hospital has invested \$700,000 in the latest technological equipment to investigate and diagnose cardiovascular conditions and is the first private hospital in Queensland to have the newest technology in CT imaging.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Queensland and is 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.