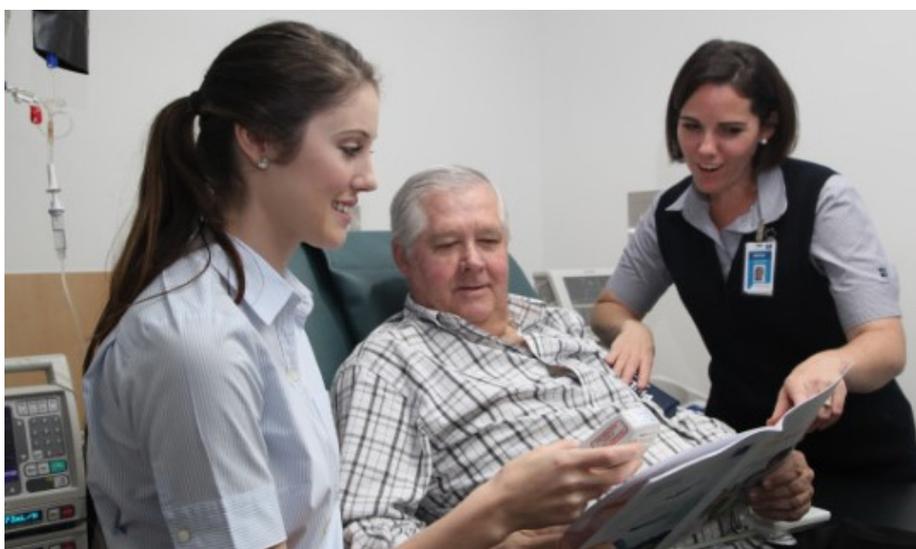


Crucial oncology care

The new Day Oncology Infusion Centre at St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital supplements the high quality suite of services the hospital already provides to the region's residents



Lauren Silcock, clinical nurse with patient Don Livingstone and Nicole Parkinson, clinical nurse specialist



Paul Ramsay with St Andrew's Ipswich CEO Chris Went

Paul Ramsay officially opened St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital's new Day Oncology Infusion Centre in May. The centre provides St Andrew's Hospital with a much-needed oncology service for the residents of Ipswich and surrounding areas.

To be able to provide this cancer care and supplement the acute medical, surgical and obstetric care that has been offered at St Andrew's Ipswich for the past 100 years, is the next stage of St Andrew's growth strategy to provide a full range of services locally.

The tranquil and very comfortable Infusion Centre will provide cancer care to oncology patients, including day chemotherapy, monoclonal antibodies and supportive therapies such as blood transfusions and iron infusions. The unit is designed for adults with varying types of cancer seeking day treatment and is

supported by two oncologists who are looking forward to treating patients closer to home. The repetitive drive to Brisbane hospitals and waiting hours for cancer care will now be a thing of the past for Ipswich residents.

The Infusion Centre will be treating oncology patients with solid tumours, such as breast, bowel, lung and prostate cancers, as well as some bulky lymphomas. However, as the clinic grows and future developments occur, the Infusion Centre may introduce treatment of haematological conditions.

Staffed with very experienced clinical nurse specialists and clinical nurses, the Infusion Centre aims to provide a very personalised and family friendly service, caring for oncology patients the way they deserve to be treated - with compassion and respect. Dealing with cancer at any stage of one's life is a traumatic experience for the individual as well as the entire family. Through education and support the Infusion Centre nursing team strive to alleviate the fears associated with cancer treatment.

Oncology patients treated in the Infusion Centre will be provided with a patient diary to track and monitor their chemotherapy side effects between treatment cycles. This will help the oncologists and nursing staff follow each patient's own oncology journey and provide supportive measures where needed. Medication advice to manage side effects, referrals to dieticians for nutritional support, Blue Care for home help or Meals on Wheels can be enough to greatly help an individual and their family cope with cancer treatment.

Since opening its doors, St Andrew's Infusion Centre has seen a number of new oncology patients with varying oncological conditions. Very positive feedback on the service provided and the comfortable unit environment has been received and the Infusion Centre looks forward to welcoming more patients and their families to the hospital who may require treatment for cancer. [PH](#)