



Allamanda HITH nurses Jo Reed, Craig Hulsman and Leah Ticehurst

# Comfort of home

*Patients benefits from Allamanda's 'hospital in the home'*

Allamanda Private Hospital provides a home service for acute medical patients, known as 'Hospital in the Home' (HITH). The service is an in-home direct substitute for hospital treatment and is therefore very different from the more common practice of community nursing.

Allamanda Private Hospital nurse and coordinator of HITH, Craig Hulsman said the service enables a patient to return home for treatment that would otherwise need to be administered while they were admitted in hospital.

"HITH patients are still considered a patient of the hospital and health funds

support this model of care," he said.

"When a patient is able to go home early, it means that patient can begin to continue life as normal and that hospital beds are free for more acute patients.

"These patients are still under the management of their hospital specialist, and Allamanda infectious diseases specialist, Dr Andrew Jones, oversees the service and provides further medical assistance when needed.

"Patients are visited in their home at least once a day by an Allamanda Private Hospital nurse and someone is on-call and available to them 24 hours a day."

Hospital clinical indicators are collected and monitored to ensure quality

and safety outcomes for patients and, as indicated by surveys conducted, patient satisfaction with the service is very high.

On average, Allamanda Private Hospital visits 15 patients per day as part of its HITH program.

Mr Hulsman said many of these patients are suffering infections that usually require six weeks of IV antibiotics.

"With HITH, we can treat patients with wounds and infections in the comfort of their own home and with as little disruption to their life as possible which is beneficial to all involved." 

*By Karla Simpson*