

## NEW MATER HOSPITAL TO MEET NEED AT SPRINGFIELD

Mater Health Services plans to build Mater Private Hospital Springfield at Health City Springfield Central, with work due to start in August 2013.

The 80-bed, \$85 million hospital will offer a combination of inpatient, day and chemotherapy beds and will be supported by \$21.4 million in Australian Government funding for the cancer care centre.

Mater has a master plan for the hospital precinct of Health City which incorporates a number of expansion stages designed to meet the growing demands of the region.

Stage one works are due to start in August this year and be complete by the end of 2015 with further stages planned for future roll out.

Mater Health Services CEO Dr John O'Donnell said he was delighted to make the announcement.

"Mater Private Hospital Springfield will provide a range of medical and surgical services that are relevant to the Springfield community," Dr O'Donnell said.

"The framework of services provided by Mater, its partners and other third parties, will be responsive to the community's health need and will provide accountable, holistic care that promotes wellness, prevention of illness in addition to exceptional acute and sub-acute care and treatment."



The seven-level, 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> facility will include theatre space, inpatient wards, a day surgery unit and a cancer care centre, initially with a linear accelerator and 15 medical oncology treatment bays, to be further developed in partnership with Radiation Oncology Queensland.

Approximately 8.7 hectares of Health City Springfield Central is earmarked for primary health and acute hospital development, with pre-planning approval obtained for up to 1200 hospital beds.

## MATER PATHOLOGY INTRODUCES NEW TEST PANEL FOR ATYPICAL PNEUMONIA

Mater Pathology is the only laboratory in Queensland to offer a new test panel for atypical pneumonia, a condition whereby the pneumonia is caused by atypical bacteria and the patient's clinical presentation differs from the classic illness.

The Atypical Pneumonia PCR panel offered by Mater Pathology targets *Legionella pneumophila*, *Legionella longbeachae* and *Chlamydia pneumoniae* as well as other rarer causes of pneumonia (*Chlamydia psittaci* and *Cryptococcus species*).

This new PCR panel will assist in better diagnosis of atypical pneumonia, by allowing detection of the disease in the acute phase.

The PCR panel can be ordered by writing 'Atypical Pneumonia PCR' on the request form or the individual organism names.

*Mycoplasma pneumoniae* is a separate PCR and will

need to be requested in addition to the Atypical Pneumonia PCR.

Testing is performed three times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and the service will grow once requests increase.

The Atypical Pneumonia PCR panel can be performed on all sputum and respiratory samples although nasopharyngeal swabs are not recommended because of lower yield of organisms.

For further information please visit [www.pathology.mater.org.au](http://www.pathology.mater.org.au) or contact Mater's Microbiology laboratory on telephone 07 3163 8168.

## MATER LAUNCHES MATERNITY AND BABY CARE PRODUCT RANGE

Mater Mothers' Hospitals last month launched *Mater Body Balm for pregnancy*—the first of its maternity and baby care products.

The product range continues the exceptional care Mater Mothers' Hospitals provides mothers, from the hospital into their homes.

Mater Health Services Director of Women's Health Services Maree Reynolds said more than 3000 mums and midwives were involved in the development of the maternity and baby care range.

"This product and the ones yet to come are unique in the market place as our midwives have offered their expert opinions to ensure they are of the best quality for mothers and babies," Ms Reynolds said.

"We are thankful to the wonderful group of mothers who were involved in the product co-creation and testing group as well as those who trialled the body balm and offered their feedback.

"This collaborative approach has allowed us to create this ideal moisturising treatment," she said.

*Mater Body Balm for pregnancy* has been developed to promote softness and elasticity and help reduce the appearance of stretch marks.

The Mater product range will also include baby wash, baby moisturiser, nappies, baby wipes, nappy balm, maternity pads and nursing pads, all of which will be launched throughout 2013.

Following their launch, products will be available online at [www.matermothers.org.au](http://www.matermothers.org.au) and at selected pharmacies, with proceeds supporting Mater Little Miracles.



## EVE HEALTH EXPANDS TO OFFER OBSTETRIC CARE

Eve Health has recently expanded its gynaecology practice to include a team of obstetricians.

Eve Health now provides private patients a traditional obstetric care service with the broad expertise and benefits of a collaborative group practice.

The team of five specialists, Dr Ben Kroon, Dr Rob Butler, Dr David Moore, Dr Tal Jacobson and Dr Paul Conaghan (pictured) will each care for and deliver their own patient's babies with on-call arrangements in place for the rare occasion that a specialist is not available. Each obstetrician has extensive experience in high and low-risk pregnancy management.

Patients can be seen at Eve Health's new consulting suites at 55 Little Edward Street or at their South Bank practice at 5/199 Grey Street.

For further information or for referrals phone **07 3332 1999** or visit [www.evehealth.com.au](http://www.evehealth.com.au)



> Above: Eve Health specialists Dr Ben Kroon, Dr Rob Butler, Dr David Moore, Dr Tal Jacobson and Dr Paul Conaghan.

## NEW MATER CANCER CARE CENTRE OPENS

The new Mater Cancer Care Centre, which offers patients holistic oncology, haematology and palliative care services, has opened at South Brisbane.

Mater Cancer Care Centre allows all patients—regardless of their level of health insurance cover—access to care that is specially designed for their individual treatment needs.

Staffed by experienced health care providers and focused on empowering people to live with, through and beyond their cancer journey, the facility includes specialist suites, treatment pods, support programs and a specialised pharmacy.

“Mater’s commitment to providing compassionate cancer care began more than 100 years ago and the new Mater Cancer Care Centre will continue this important tradition,” Mater Private Hospitals Executive Director Don Murray said.

“Incorporating state-of-the-art design and technology, the centre provides patients with a safe and comfortable environment, while promoting positive health and wellbeing,” Mr Murray said.

The centre has 40 treatment pods—13 for privately insured patients and 18 for uninsured patients—with five shared flexible treatment pods, one isolation room and three apheresis spaces as well as patient lounges, resource library and a Mater Pharmacy dispensing patient medicines onsite.

Patients choose from a dietetically-approved all day dining



menu while they receive treatment at the centre and a number of support services are provided to patients during all stages of their cancer journey at Mater.

“The centre will house dedicated consulting suites to allow clinicians and health care professionals to provide compassionate support and care during all stages of their patient’s cancer journey at Mater,” Mr Murray said.

## UPDATED REFERRAL FORMS – Q&A

Mater has recently changed its referral forms for adult and children’s specialist clinics to better meet the needs of our referring GPs.

- Referrals are now directed to the Head of Clinic and will be shared with the most appropriate and first available doctor.
- The newly revised referrals to our children’s clinics include all of our paediatric cardiac specialists to facilitate referrals to this service.

### Why has Mater changed the referral form?

We have changed our referral form in response to feedback from referring GPs that the previous requirement to select a specialist was confusing. GPs told us their priority was to refer patients to the first available specialist; however they weren’t able to request this through the

previous referral form. Now, referrals are directed to the Head of Clinic who can facilitate referral to the most suitable specialist for the patient, considering the patient’s needs and the workload of all specialists in the service.

### How do I select a specialist now?

The new referral forms (online and paper) prompt referral to the Head of Clinic only (except for Paediatric Cardiology). Please ensure that you select the Head of Clinic to facilitate a valid, named referral to these services.

For more answers to your questions and to download the latest referral forms please visit [www.materonline.org.au](http://www.materonline.org.au)



Generally Speaking is proudly printed on recycled stock by a ISO 14001 accredited printer.

## GAMMA PROBE OFFERED TO REDLAND CANCER PATIENTS

Cancer patients at Mater Private Hospital Redland are benefiting from a procedure using a new Gamma Probe which identifies lymph nodes that may be affected by cancer, resulting in less invasive surgery.

Surgery using the Gamma Probe, a piece of equipment funded by the Redlands community, is now being offered to local cancer patients and women diagnosed with breast cancer in particular are taking advantage of the new procedure.

The use of the Gamma Probe is making a real difference to the lives of cancer patients as their recovery from surgery is significantly reduced, Surgeon Dr Jason Lambley said.

"Traditionally, breast cancer surgery would result in all of the lymph nodes being removed which can cause severe lymphoedema and shoulder dysfunction," he said.

"The handheld probe is able to detect the lymph nodes that may be affected by the cancer cells and therefore only these lymph nodes are removed during surgery. This less invasive surgery is lowering the rate of lymphoedema substantially.

"We are doing several procedures a week and the demand is growing, particularly with breast cancer patients, but the Gamma Probe can also be used on patients undergoing surgery for melanoma."

"Being able to offer this procedure locally is a major benefit to cancer patients and their families who would normally have to travel to Brisbane to access this type of surgery," Dr Lambley said.

Appointments can be offered to women diagnosed with breast cancer within 24 hours. For more information or to arrange an appointment telephone **07 3163 7366**.



> Above: Surgeon Dr Jason Lambley.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Patients are injected with a small dose of radioactive fluid which travels from the tumour to the draining lymph nodes.
- The probe is used to scan the relevant lymph nodes and when the probe detects the radioactive agent, it emits an audible tone, signalling the location for a small incision.
- If the first draining lymph nodes are clear of cancer cells the adjacent lymph nodes are not removed, reducing the risk of significant side-effects.

## GP EDUCATION SURVEY RESULTS PROVE POSITIVE

Mater Health Services received positive survey results from GPs who attended Mater's GP education activities recently which will help to continually improve GP education.

Survey results showed that 86 per cent of GPs surveyed had previously attended a Mater education event and 100 per cent of these GPs would recommend Mater education activities to their colleagues.

Overall results were positive and feedback included that insights gained from the education program were key motivators for attendance, topics that GPs find most useful about the program and the increasing awareness of technology and their willingness to embrace it.

Mater Health Services continually strives to deliver exceptional education and support to GPs.

These results will help the Mater Education Committee to build a program that is targeted, relevant and assists GPs in improving patient care.

Mater Health Services would like to thank all GPs who completed the survey and we would like to congratulate Dr Peter Thinecheham from Tingalpa who won a \$100 Coles/Myer Voucher for completing the survey.

To view the list of Mater's GP education activities visit [www.materonline.org.au](http://www.materonline.org.au) and click on 'What's On'.