

Friendly Life

Foundation

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The Friendlies Foundation launches.

Hospital launches charity to secure future of vital health care service in region



A NEW CHARITY has been launched to ensure the future of vital health care services in the Bundaberg Region.

The Friendlies Foundation is the charitable fundraising arm of The Friendly Society Private Hospital and was launched in April.

Fiona Macaulay has taken on the role of foundation public relations officer to raise the profile of The Friendlies Foundation and explain why the hospital's services are vital to the Bundaberg Community.

"The Board has been working to establish The Friendlies Foundation for a few years," Mrs Macaulay said.

"Our region has a higher proportion of the older demographic and they have higher healthcare needs. The Wide Bay and Burnett is also growing in population so we need to expand hospital services.

The Friendlies Foundation goals are to raise funds for future expansion of the Friendly Society Private Hospital, to purchase large capital items and to support

research and education.

"The Friendlies Foundation's first projects will focus on oncology and raising funds for a second Cath Lab, which diagnoses and treats heart problems and conditions," Mrs Macaulay said.

Mrs Macaulay said The Friendlies Cath Lab was the only one between Townsville and the Sunshine Coast and the patient demand was already high.

"Last year 1000 patients were able to have treatment here in Bundaberg that would otherwise have had to travel to Brisbane. This year we expect to increase patients through the Cardiac Cath Lab by 30%."

"With the need for this service growing, and the life expectancy of a Cath Lab only at 10 years, we need to build another one within the next three years.

"This will be at a cost to the hospital of

more than \$5m, with a master plan strategy in excess of \$50m.

"The Friendly Society Private Hospital is a not-for-profit organisation, so it relies heavily on community support for its development and survival."

Mrs Macaulay said The Friendlies Foundation also had the capacity to fund doctor research, which would not only improve patient outcomes, but also be a great employment incentive to attract and retain specialists.

"The Friendlies Foundation is also about creating awareness of what we do as a hospital," Mrs Macaulay said.

To achieve its goals, The Friendlies Foundation will hold regular events throughout the year and foundation staff will be available to speak to community groups, organisations and businesses about the goals of the foundation and The Friendlies.

Find out more about the foundation at thefriendlies.org.au/foundation or contact Mrs Macaulay on 4331 1024.

Want to know more?

If you have a community group or organisation that would like to hear more about The Friendlies Foundation or the Friendly Society Private Hospital, Fiona Macaulay is available to speak to you.



Phone 07 4331 1024
to book a talk with Fiona.

Off to a great start

The Friendlies Foundation made its first donation to the Friendly Society Private Hospital in July, a \$20,000 donation for the expansion of the Day Oncology Unit.

Public relations officer Fiona Macaulay said it was exciting that the fundraising The Friendlies Foundation had been doing would now be given to the hospital to invest in the health and wellbeing of the community.

"This donation will go towards the \$700,000 expansion of our oncology unit, that will see it become the largest private day oncology facility between Sunshine Coast and Townsville," Mrs Macaulay said.

"This expansion will mean more patients can be treated locally, with family and friends and their support systems close by, as our chair numbers increase from six to 14.

"It is wonderful that The Friendlies Foundation, through the support of the community, is able to help the hospital fund the refurbishment of this unit."

Mrs Macaulay said the Day Oncology Unit had been made a bit more comfortable, thanks to the Bundaberg and District Cancer Support Group, who generously donated \$1100 to buy five tray arms to attach to the new chairs.

The foundation also held its first fundraiser in May, a Mother's Day High Tea, as well as becoming the recipient of donations from The Friendlies monthly staff barbecue and raffles.



The Friendlies Foundation's first donation



Probus Club



Day Oncology Donation



Mother's Day High Tea



Foundation launch event



Workplace Giving

The Friendlies Foundation is now able to accept workplace giving.

Contact Fiona Macaulay on 4331 1024 or foundation@thefriendlies.org.au for information on how workplace giving works and how you may benefit from making regular tax-deductible donations.

Want to know more?



If you would like to know about The Friendlies Foundation events, subscribe to our newsletter at thefriendlies.org.au/news

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