

# Friendly Life

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## Bundaberg heart attack patients receive same standard of care as city counterparts

If you were to suffer a heart attack, the consequences of delayed treatment can be catastrophic to your lifestyle and sometimes even fatal.

Ensuring all people have access to immediate treatment has always been a high priority for the Friendly Society Private Hospital and Bundaberg Cardiology, who worked together to bring the first regional cardiac cath lab to Bundaberg.

The Cath Lab first opened in November 2012, and is the only facility of its kind between Sunshine Coast and Townsville.

Hundreds of patients have received access to life saving treatment due to having the cath lab available so close.

Bundaberg Cardiology interventional cardiologist Dr Andre Conradie said patients who suffer an acute heart attack in Bundaberg are given the same opportunities for care as any patient in Brisbane.

The standard of treatment in Brisbane is the same as here in Bundaberg since we began doing interventional cardiology about 12 months ago," Dr Conradie said.

"If medication doesn't dissolve the clot,

the patient is taken straight into a cath lab for immediate mechanical profusion, meaning we use a balloon and stent, if needed, to clear the blockage."

Dr Conradie said the team had treated a number of cases of acute heart attack in the past 12 months.

**"There are many positive impacts on being able to do this procedure here. Patients aren't having to wait to get on a plane to take them to Brisbane and then into another hospital," he said. "The outcome is better long term, as being able to get them into a cath lab straight away means there is less damage done to the heart. "This means patients recover quicker and in some cases we have actually saved their life."**

Dr Conradie said the social impact of this type of service in Bundaberg shouldn't be underestimated, as family don't have to travel to be with their loved one and the time away from home or work is shortened.

"Not only do we have the technology

in Bundaberg to be able to offer these treatments, but we have highly-skilled staff to make it possible as well," Dr Conradie said.

Friendly Society Private Hospital CEO Alan Cooper said the hospital invests heavily in the service it provides to the community.

"It is not overstating it to say that we save lives and we preserve the quality of life for our patients every day," Mr Cooper said.

"We are ensuring this service remains up-to-date and keeps up with demand, so we are well into planning the addition of a second Cath Lab when we embark on an expansion of our theatres within the next three years.

"In doing this, we have been able to attract a permanent vascular surgeon, who will start this month, in addition to our regular visiting vascular surgeons.

"The service we can offer patients in Bundaberg is continuing to grow – from diagnostic cardiology now to interventional cardiology and vascular surgery – and that is something we will continue to focus on for years to come."

10 page  
Gift Guide!



see inside



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## New uniforms brighten up The Friendlies

An injection of colour and functionality will be brought to Friendly Society Private Hospital Uniforms.

CEO Alan Cooper said The Friendlies liked to change the uniforms about every five years to review, update and refresh the look of staff.

"The new uniforms have been a work in progress for a few months, so it is great to see the change starting to happen throughout the hospital," Mr Cooper said.

"This time we have taken a good look at the day-to-day functionality our staff, especially our nurses, need.

"Part of that is moving away from corporate-style uniforms, and having our nursing and support staff wear professional and colourful scrubs.

"This will not only provide our nursing and support staff with the movement they need as they care for all patients, but it also has added functionality with items like pockets and loops for the items they need to efficiently manage their daily tasks.

Mr Cooper said the colours of the

scrubs were complimented by a more modern colour palette of black and grey for managers, ancillary and maintenance staff uniforms.

Maintenance staff have also had a uniform update moving to grey to keep with the new colour palette.

The Friendlies has also made a change to the uniform for its allied health staff and volunteers, moving to coloured polo shirts.

"Polo shirts are the standard dress for physiotherapists and other allied health staff due to the nature of their work and the functionality they need," Mr Cooper said.

"We have also chosen a vibrant green polo shirt for our volunteers so they can be recognised throughout the hospital and have a comfortable uniform for their varied roles.

Mr Cooper said staff will be changing their uniforms over the next 12 months.

"We hope that our patients and their visitors enjoy the injection of colour these new uniforms will bring," he said.



## Staff and services increase ahead of next development

Over the past few months, The Friendlies has been recruiting for a variety of positions as we prepare for the next stage of development across the hospital.

In August, The Friendlies welcomed full-time physician Dr Gareth Hart, who has a special interest in nephrology. Dr Hart relocated from South Australia, after originally completing his training in the UK. Dr Hart accepts new patients with a GP referral.

The Friendlies Physiotherapy Service has expanded its allied health service, welcoming podiatrist Claire Barrand in October and new dietitian Kelly Daly in September. Both are accepting appointments on 4331 1888.

Two new pharmacists have joined the Friendly Society Pharmacy team - Carmen Yap and Celina Son. Carmen will be based at Barolin Street and Celina will be based at the hospital.

More than 30 new employees have started at The Friendlies since August in a variety of roles across the hospital, boosting staff numbers to more than 440.



← Dr Hart  
Physician



→ Kelly  
Dietitian



← Carmen  
Pharmacist



→ Clare  
Podiatrist

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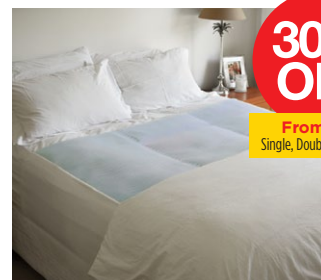
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