

Monday, 22 May 2017

Shoalhaven's Emergency Department transformation now complete

A \$1.8 million re-configuration and expansion of the Emergency Department (ED) at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital is now complete and treating local patients after being officially opened today.

ISLHD Chief Executive Margot Mains has thanked the community and staff for their support during the building works, which are part of a \$5 million revamp of the Hospital.

“The Shoalhaven campus has undergone significant enhancements in recent years and I am delighted that the Emergency Department redesign and new configuration is now in operation. Patients who come to the ED will see major changes to waiting and triage areas as well as the ambulance bay, which now includes a rapid assessment area.

“All of the changes are aimed at improving the flow of patients through the busy area and are ultimately designed to reduce wait times.

“There will always be teething problems when changes are made to an area like the ED but it's particularly encouraging to see improvements to patient wait times after the first weekend of our new areas coming on line,” she said.

There has been an almost 20% improvement compared to Shoalhaven's year to date results for wait times, with 94% of Ambulance patients transferred to the care of the ED within 30 minutes since 13 May.

“The early indicators are very positive and patients arriving by Ambulance are being triaged in a timely manner, transferred to the care of an ED Nurse or Medical Officer in a shorter period of time, allowing Ambulances to return to the essential duty of responding to emergencies,” said Ms Mains.

Other recent works at Shoalhaven Hospital include the \$1.5 million construction of an additional operating theatre suite, designed specifically for endoscopy services. The \$1.5 million redevelopment of Medical Ward B into a dedicated Aged Care Unit is continuing and will be completed in time for the commencement of the winter period next month.

“All of these projects certainly recognise the growing demand for health services in the Shoalhaven and I have no doubt that community welcomes these enhancements and future developments including a new multi-storey parking facility currently in the planning phase,” said Ms Mains.

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