

# New facilities ease stress of final days

ROBINA Hospital's palliative care patients can now enjoy hinterland views while receiving treatment.

As part of the \$274.3 million Robina Hospital Expansion, Gold Coast Health's Palliative and Supportive Care Service opened in Robina's brand-new H-Building.

Gold Coast Health Service District chief executive officer professor Adrian Nowitzke said the million-dollar expansion of Robina Hospital represented a significant increase in capacity for public health services on the Gold Coast.

"Palliative and Supportive Care Services relocated to their brand new purpose-built ward on January 18 this year," Prof Nowitzke said.

"All levels of staff across a number of disciplines were involved in all stages of the palliative care relocation project including designing the floor plan and garden terrace, as well as consulting on new equipment and materials that have been purchased for the new unit."

He said the new 20-bed, single room only ward at Robina Hospital included provisions for family members to stay with patients in pull-out beds.

"Additional purpose-built features include patient



**IMPROVED FACILITIES:** Cliff Chambers from Mudgeeraba at the new Robina Hospital palliative care ward.

PHOTO: SCOTT POWICK / D130650

lounge areas at each end of the ward with hinterland views, plus a roof-top garden and water feature that will help to provide tranquillity for patients as they rest or receive their treatment," he said.

"The Robina Hospital expansion project team worked closely with palliative care staff and their

patients and families to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of this important service at Robina Hospital."

Burleigh MP Christine Smith said the new ward would enhance the patient and family-focused service, as the hospital had designed its new unit specifically to maximise the quality of life

for patients.

"The new ward has 20 single bedrooms, meaning patients have much more privacy than they would if coupled with another patient," Mrs Smith said.

Mrs Smith said Palliative and Supportive Care Services strived to maximise a person's quality of life after their diagnosis, and maintain their independence as long as possible.

"The new palliative care ward is a prime example of how Robina Hospital is being upgraded to meet the specific needs of patients and their families," she said.

"We look forward to seeing more major improvements as the project progresses.

"The quality of care will be taken to a whole new level as the facility delivers more services to the Gold Coast community.

"Robina is set to become a hub of public health services in the area with its three public health facilities - the hospital itself, Campus Alpha and the Robina Health Precinct - located within 350m of each other."

The Robina Hospital expansion is due for completion by mid-2012.

For more information visit [www.health.qld.gov.au/robinahospital](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/robinahospital).

# Art reflects a peaceful lifestyle

GOLD Coasters will not have to travel to see the works of successful Byron Bay Artist Donna Sharam after this weekend.

Her latest exhibition called Lying Under Trees will go on display at Mermaid Beach Gallery on Saturday.

Ms Sharam said her latest collection, like all of her pieces, reflected her love of life in the Northern Rivers.

"All of my work is fun, colourful and bright. I just love my life here and that is evident in my work," she said.

The collection was inspired by a recent trip to the beach and features trees local to the area.

"My son and I were lying under a tree at Wategos Beach, Byron Bay. As we looked up into the canopy, we both saw differing shapes, colours and textures, and a new concept for a body of work was born," Ms Sharam said.

"All the trees are based on ones in my garden or in the local area, and pretty much every time, I have laid under the tree, photographed it and brought it home to paint it."

"It is that fantastic experience of being in the garden, under a tree or at the beach and not having to rush. There seems to be an inability with people to sit still and just do nothing."

The community is invited to attend the launch of Lying Under Trees at 6pm at the gallery at 19 Karen Avenue, Mermaid Beach.



**NATURAL INSPIRATION:** Donna Sharam with her three sons at home in Byron Bay.

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