RPA baby unit benefits from RSL generosity

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is equipped with another life-saving humidicrib, thanks to the generosity of Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club.

Last year the Club generously donated $27,500 for a new humidicrib for the NICU, only to do so once again this year.

“Being equipped with the best and most up-to-date equipment is critical to ensure RPA Newborn Care continues to offer world class care and treatment to its sick babies,” NICU Director, Dr David Osborn said.

“We are extremely grateful to Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club for its outstanding generosity in allowing us to purchase not one but two life-saving humidicribs that help us achieve our aim.”

Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club Chief Executive Officer, Dean Thomas, said the Club was thrilled to have the opportunity to provide another humidicrib to help treat sick babies at RPA.

“Each year we commit 20 per cent of our profits to benefit the community and so far this year almost $800,000 has been allocated," Mr Thomas said.

“Being able to give back is the foundation of what RSLs are built upon and something we are very proud of.”

Each year more than 5000 babies are born at RPA, making it the largest maternity hospital in NSW. The NICU looks after all the very small and sick babies born in RPA and other babies who are transferred from hospitals around the state.

Around 900 babies are treated in NICU every year and more than 29,000 babies have been cared for over its 37 years of service.

The Unit also provides support services for the mother, the infant and the family, including:

- Expert paediatric consultation to mothers at risk during pregnancy;
- Resuscitation of babies in the labour ward, theatre and birth centre (doctors from RPA Newborn Care attend all caesarean deliveries);
- Care of all well infants born in RPA including the Well Baby check prior to discharge; and,
- Parent education and information.

Caring for newborn babies requires the best and most innovative technology, together with a peaceful and stable environment allowing them to grow and thrive.

Humidicribs, also known as incubators, provide a unique environment to perfectly suit the needs of sick and premature babies. They control the humidity and temperature around the baby to
minimise any heat loss, while providing vital oxygen to promote developmental care. In many ways, a humidicrib provides the closest environment to a mother’s womb.

For more information on RPA Newborn Centre, visit: http://www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/rpa/neonatal/