

# THE PINNACLE



Hospital Redevelopment Underway

Remarkable: Surgeons  
Remove Rare Tumour

Mount Welcomes Orthopaedics Group

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*Front Cover Image: Mount Hospital's Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) comprises a group of visiting medical officers who represent the specialties at the hospital.*

*Mr Paul Taylor (Chairperson) - Orthopaedic Surgeon (spinal), Mr Sanjay Sharma (Deputy Chairperson) - Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Dr Rajesh Kanna - Cardiologist, Mr Michael Kern - Neurosurgeon (absent), Dr Wei-Sen Lam - Medical Oncologist, Mr Deepak Mehrotra - Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Mr Paul Quinn - Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon (absent), Dr Stephen Same - Anaesthetist, Mr Ian Skinner - Orthopaedic Surgeon, Mr Brendan Stanley - Vascular Surgeon, Dr Angus Thompson - Cardiologist, Dr Jacqui Thomson - Radiologist, Dr Simon Zidar - Anaesthetist, Dr Greg McGrath (Medical Director), Dr Larry Liew (Director of Rehabilitation) (absent), Professor David Playford (Professor of Cardiology), Claire Fogarty - General Manager, Russell Cockburn - Director of Nursing, Allie Adamson - Medical Services Support Officer*



## General Manager Update

CLAIRE FOGARTY

Welcome to the first edition of our new magazine - The Pinnacle.

Here we will be telling the stories of our talented team through news, features and profiles, along with other informative insights and updates. Our vision is for this magazine to become a resource for general practitioners, specialists, staff and patients wanting to stay up-to-date with the latest services, developments and other news at Mount Hospital.

Since joining the team last year, I have already witnessed many exciting new developments at Mount - and I'm pleased to say there are more to come. Our parent company, Healthscope, has committed \$15 million for the first stage of a redevelopment program, which will ensure Mount Hospital continues its legacy as a leading healthcare provider in Western Australia.

This investment will see the introduction of two additional cardiac catheterisation laboratories - one of which will be a hybrid operating theatre - to facilitate the expansion of our world-class cardiac service.

Our Day Surgery Unit will also be upgraded as part of the stage one redevelopment. We are in active discussions about future stages to ensure we continue to enhance the patient experience. During the past year, we have also introduced the first private Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) program in Western Australia, which has already provided lifesaving treatment for more than 30 patients.

I'd like to acknowledge our long-serving VMOs who have decided to retire this year and extend our best wishes to these talented specialists - pain medicine specialist Dr Phil Finch, orthopaedic surgeon Professor Bo Nivbrant and cardiologist Dr Geoff Lane. The next 12 months are set to be defining for Mount Hospital and I look forward to working closely with the entire team on what will be a year of expansion and innovation for Mount Hospital.





Raelee Denniston and GM Claire Fogarty check on the construction progress



# REDEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

**\$15 million investment to solidify Mount as leading WA healthcare provider**

Construction has started on a \$15 million redevelopment at Mount Hospital, including the introduction of the first – and only - private hybrid operating theatre in Western Australia.

Mount Hospital’s owner, Healthscope, has committed to funding the Stage One redevelopment, which will focus on its cardiac service - one of the busiest and most respected of its kind in Australia.

The new state-of-the-art hybrid theatre will support the hospital’s vascular and structural heart services, including the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) program.

Mount Hospital was the first private facility in Western Australia to introduce the TAVI service, providing lifesaving treatment to patients considered too high risk for open heart surgery.

Stage One will also include the introduction of a third cardiac catheterisation lab (cath lab) and upgrades to the hospital’s Day Surgery Unit, in what will be the launch of the next phase of growth and innovation for Mount.

Mount Hospital General Manager Claire Fogarty said the investment would put the hospital in good stead for the future.

*“This will solidify our position as one of Australia’s most active and experienced private cardiac services...”*

“The additional cardiac catheterisation lab and hybrid operating theatre will be invaluable additions to our renowned cardiac service and will contribute to the continued growth of Mount,” she said.

“This redevelopment will not only enable us to continue to solidify our position as one of Australia’s premier private cardiac services, but also allow us to continue developing a range of other key specialties.”

Claire said the redevelopment was part of a wider plan to continue to position Mount Hospital - which houses 224 patient-beds and employs more than 650 staff - as a leading private hospital.

“Our executive team is working on a plan for future stages of redevelopment, which will further enhance the patient experience at Mount,” she said.

Georgiou Group began construction in June with completion set for later this year.



# LEADING — THE — WAY

## CARDIAC FACILITY CEMENTS POSITION AS INDUSTRY LEADER

**M**ore patients will soon be able to access Mount Hospital's world-class cardiac service with the addition of two new cath labs, one of which will be WA's first private hybrid operating theatre.

The Mount Hospital's reputation as one of the busiest and most respected cardiac facilities in Australia has seen patient numbers steadily increase, with more than 1,000 cardiothoracic operations performed in 2017.

Mount Hospital's structural heart disease program also continues to grow, with the addition of new treatments such as Transcatheter Aortic Valve Intervention (TAVI) - a procedure that replaces a narrowed aortic valve without the need for traditional surgery.

Also in this program is percutaneous left atrial appendage occlusion - a new method of preventing blood clots for patients with rhythm problems who are unable to take blood thinners.

Mount Hospital's Professor of Cardiology, David Playford, said the new cath labs would significantly

increase the hospital's cardiac capacity and allow for the expansion of vascular services through the new hybrid theatre.

*“We are one of the highest volume cardiac surgical sites in Australia, and the biggest cardiac facility in the State.”*

“Mount will be home to the latest GE hybrid theatre - one of only 12 worldwide - with the most advanced suite of imaging technology and a new design that enables flexibility, efficiency and safety,” he said.

“The imaging technology installed will enable all work stations across the hospital to see every cardiac test conducted on a patient, from echocardiography to angiograms and ECG; everything to do with cardiology.

“Each patient's journey will be followed by a series of technology linkups, making Mount the only hospital in Australia with this capability.”

Professor Playford said Mount Hospital's high volume of cardiac patients played a significant role in delivering exceptional clinical outcomes.



Mount Hospital Professor of Cardiology, David Playford

“Our results are among the best in the world in the field of cardiothoracic surgery and interventional cardiology,” he said.

“The exceptional patient outcomes no doubt relate to the fact we are one of the highest volume cardiac surgical sites in Australia, and the biggest cardiac facility in the State.

“Due to its structure, the overall governance and exceptional staff and management, the unit is in high demand from cardiologists wanting to work here, and doctors wanting their patients to be treated here.”

The Coronary Care Unit is staffed 24-hours a day by cardiology registrars, including sought-after rotations of doctors from tertiary hospitals.

Professor Playford said the hospital's team of 52 cardiologists and nine cardiothoracic surgeons ensured the quality and care given to patients was second-to-none.

“We look after a broad range of cardiac problems, including symptoms of heart attacks, coronary disease, heart failure, structural heart abnormalities and rhythm problems to name just a few,” said Professor Playford.

“Demand is so high that we are at a stage where the only way we can take on more patients is to expand – and we're very thankful that is now in progress.

“Our exceptional team of specialists and nurses, our level-three Intensive Care Unit and onsite rehabilitation ensures patients undergoing cardiac treatment at Mount Hospital will receive the highest quality care, all under one roof.”



# HEART SMART

## PATIENT SAFETY AT HEART OF UNIQUE CARDIAC MODEL

**M**ount Hospital's long-standing reputation for achieving nation-leading cardiac surgery outcomes is in no small part due to the unique approach taken to operating the heart-lung bypass machine during surgery.

Mount is the only cardiac surgery unit in Western Australia where two highly-qualified cardiac anaesthetists are present during surgery with one anaesthetist solely dedicated to managing the heart-lung bypass machine.

With the largest cardiac unit in the State and one of the five largest in Australia, the team at Mount includes some of the most experienced, dedicated and skilled surgeons, anaesthetists, medical perfusionists, intensivists and nurses in the country.

The nine specialist cardiac anaesthetists based at the Mount follow a model where two specialist anaesthetists are present during every cardiac surgery - one to administer the anaesthetic, while the other operates the

heart-lung machine. The heart-lung machine is critical during surgery, replacing the function of both organs while the heart is being operated on, which can often be for several hours.

Mount Hospital cardiac anaesthetist, Dr Stephen Same, said there were many benefits of the two-anaesthetist approach.

"Our model is far safer, as there is significantly more experience in the operating theatre," he said.

"Cardiac anaesthetists have extensive medical training and a unique understanding of the complexities of surgery that involves the heart."

Dr Same said the approach also assisted in putting the patient more at ease prior to surgery.

"At the Mount, all patients meet the doctor who will be setting up, calibrating and operating the machine for them, prior to the operation," he said.

"That way they know they can trust that the person is experienced, knows all the details of their medical history and will operate the machine to their exact requirements."

Dr Same said the team of nine cardiac anaesthetists at the Mount did not charge a gap, so there was actually a cost saving for the patient in taking this approach, along with the numerous benefits that come with having additional experience in the operating theatre.

"No other cardiac anaesthetists in Western Australia have the expertise to be able to operate the machines if their technicians, who are not medically trained, encounter difficulties during surgery," he said.

"Although both anaesthetists are fulfilling separate roles, with each case we are all fully trained in cardiac anaesthesia, heart-lung machine management and echocardiography so if a problem should arise we can back our colleague up wherever they require assistance."

The approach has attracted interest from around Australia, including from the Australasian Society of Medical Perfusion.

The team at Mount has been instrumental in launching a new qualification to allow cardiac anaesthetists around Australia to advance learning and research into improving outcomes after cardiac surgery.

"Our cardiac anaesthetists have been operating these machines for over 30 years, so it wasn't surprising that we were approached to develop and contribute to the course curriculum and assessments," said Dr Same.

"We want to bring this safer model of care to more hospitals around Australia, but at the moment the only place in Western Australia where patients can be assured of expert care by two specialist cardiac anaesthetists, and without paying a gap, is at Mount Hospital."



# MOUNT SURGEONS COLLABORATE TO REMOVE RARE TUMOUR



Mr Sanjay Sharma, cardiothoracic surgeon at Mount Hospital

Amber Howard was being investigated for a recurrent chest infection and cough when doctors discovered the massive 14cm by 9cm tumour that extended from the spinal canal to the chest cavity.

Although it was benign, the tumour's position in the chest and spinal cavities put her at risk of spinal cord and major cardiac vessel damage.

Mount Hospital specialists, Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Sanjay Sharma, and Spinal Surgeon, Paul Taylor, worked together to ensure the safe removal of the tumour through coordinated procedures.

"After examining Amber and determining the positioning of the tumour, I was concerned that removing it through the chest may exert traction on the spinal cord, putting her at risk of a spinal injury or permanent paralysis," said Mr Sharma.



Mr Paul Taylor, spine surgeon at Mount Hospital

Paul reviewed the patient's case and we decided the best course of action was for Paul to undertake a posterior thoracic spine operation as the first stage; and for me to remove the larger chest component involving the aorta and other cardiac structures via the chest cavity."

A spinal surgeon and cardiothoracic surgeon who rarely cross paths have partnered to successfully remove a rare tumour that was wrapped around the thoracic spinal canal and the aorta of a 35-year-old woman.

Mr Taylor said the first stage involved removing the roof of the spine and de-roofing the nerve tunnel to release the tumour - a procedure that required 45mm screws to be inserted into the spine to maintain stability after the operation, and a delicate dissection of the tumour from around the spinal cord and nerves.

"I undertook a posterior thoracic spine operation to release the tumour from the nerves in the spinal canal and excise the spinal portion of the tumour, so Mr Sharma could perform the thoracic component a couple of days later," he said.

"During the second operation, Mr Sharma noted the thoracic tumour remained wrapped around the existing intercostal nerve, so I attended theatre to perform this component so that I could dissect this free and ultimately divide a component of the nerve.

"Amber's treatment was rapid, well-coordinated and effective, principally as a consequence of a good relationship between specialists - something the Mount does well."

Ms Howard said while she was still working towards a full recovery from the spinal fusion, she was making good progress.

"Not having to deal with the constant colds, infections, sore necks and migraines that I've suffered over the last couple of years has been incredible," she said.

"As someone who was extremely active and often at the gym, adjusting to my new spine has been tough, but I know it will heal and I'll be stronger than before.

"In terms of my fitness and gym work, I'm approaching this experience as an opportunity to re-set.

"I'm starting from the beginning; rebuilding my body and strength from scratch, which gives me the chance to do it right, without bad habits.

"Apart from some limitations at the gym, the surgery hasn't effected my lifestyle so much - I'm back at work almost full-time and still enjoying my old pastimes.

"I'm really lucky. Apart from the fact I no longer have a tumour pushing on my lungs, the outcome of the spinal surgery has been positive and I know I'm very fortunate to have had Mr Sharma and Mr Taylor as my surgeons.

"Their experience, compassion and understanding made me feel reassured throughout what was an overwhelming time.

"The anaesthetists also did everything possible to help with my body's adverse reactions to medication and I had an amazing team of nurses - from pre, to post surgery and beyond.

"I am just so grateful."

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*I had an amazing team - from pre to post surgery and beyond. I am just so grateful.*



# BREAKING NEW GROUND

## MR RAVI RAO THE FIRST IN WA TO PERFORM NEW SIPS PROCEDURE

**B**ariatric surgeon Mr Ravi Rao is the first surgeon in Western Australia to perform a new procedure that is helping patients shed 80 to 90 per cent of their excess weight and improve their quality of life.

Mr Rao travelled to Utah in the United States to train in Stomach Intestinal Pylorus Surgery, or SIPS, under world-leading surgeon, Mr Daniel Cottam, who devised the procedure.

He undertook the first SIPS in Western Australia last year at Mount Hospital.

A modification of the duodenal switch (DS) operation, SIPS involves a standard sleeve gastrectomy, followed by dividing the first section of the duodenum and connecting it to the ileum. Mr Rao said SIPS offered a number of benefits to existing procedures.

“SIPS is a safe and efficient procedure, which provides improved quality of life for the patient,” he said.

“It allows patients to slowly and steadily lose weight right up until 18 months post-operation and, when reaching maximum potential, patients can expect to experience 80 to 90 per cent of excess weight loss.

“SIPS can be performed as a primary surgery, but is also very beneficial as a secondary surgery for those who have experienced failed sleeve procedures.

“It not only provides impressive results in terms of shedding excess kilograms, but also reduces the risk of long term complications such as anastomotic ulcers and dumping syndrome because the pylorus, which is the opening of the stomach into the duodenum, is still attached.

“Patients are able to eat and drink better in the post-operative phase

and often do not require any major lifestyle changes.”

With recent ABS statistics showing 70 per cent of Australians are either overweight or obese, Mr Rao said he continued to see an increase in the number of patients requiring bariatric surgery.

“I have definitely seen a rise in the number of patients seeking bariatric surgery and specifically requesting the SIPS,” he said.

“I approach each patient strictly on a case by case basis so I can make informed decisions about which surgery is the right one for them.

“It is important to be able to perform all types of bariatric procedures because it means we can provide each individual with the procedure they need, rather than the one the surgeon knows how to perform.”

Mr Rao’s procedure appeared on Today Tonight: facebook.com/TodayTonight/videos/sips-surgery/1593646344008149/

## SURGEON OF EXCELLENCE

**M**r Ravi Rao has become the first in Western Australia and one of only a few nation-wide - to be designated as a Surgeon of Excellence in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.

The prestigious seal was granted by the Surgical Review Corporation USA and represents proven superior patient care and the delivery of high quality perioperative services.

The designation also required proof that the facility he performed his procedures at, Mount Hospital, was of the highest standard in terms of operating procedures, its surgical team, support staff, patient education and continuous quality assessment.

It follows Mr Rao’s sponsorship by the Department of Health Western Australia to undertake a formal fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopies and Bariatrics in the USA in 2008.

Mr Rao, who specialises in advanced laparoscopy and bariatrics, said his Surgeon of Excellence designation was testament to the service every surgeon and health care facility should provide.

“The Surgeon of Excellence and Centre of Excellence designations reinforce the standard of care that should be given to any patient, in any circumstance,” he said.

“We have a responsibility to provide patients with the highest quality service not only in terms of their surgery, but from the initial consultation process through to the pre-operative, operative and post-operative stages.”

Mr Rao’s designation is the result of an in-depth review of surgeon records, a database that documents patient results, patient care and the hospital facilities at which he performs the procedures.

“The granting of this designation is not something that is taken lightly and there is a number of criteria that must be fulfilled in order to receive the seal,” he said.

“I was required to provide evidence and documentation to meet seven key criteria including surgical experience, equipment and instruments, surgeon dedication, clinical pathways and standardised operating procedures, surgical team and support staff, patient education and continuous quality assessment.

“Applying for the designation is unique in itself, but even more so for me because I had to not only meet personal standards but also provide extensive documentation to prove that the hospital, nursing staff and all its facilities also met the standards for excellence.”

Ph: (08) 9370 9686  
www.perthsurgicalbariatrics.com.au



# Breast care leading the way in WA

Over more than two decades, the highly-respected breast service at Mount Hospital has evolved to provide women with the clinical, medical and emotional support needed throughout their breast cancer journey.

Established in the early 90s, the service was initially led by a small team of breast physicians and

surgeons who developed the Perth Breast Clinic as a same-day diagnostic service for women with symptomatic breast problems.

This highly coordinated service remains one of the only in Western Australia to provide assessment, screening and diagnosis in a single day for patients at high-risk of breast cancer.

The service has grown and now screens more than 3,000 women annually. It has evolved to include a team of breast surgeons, breast physicians, oncologists, plastic surgeons, breast care nurses, breast radiologists, pathologists, radiotherapists, nuclear medicine specialists and physiotherapists.

Now collectively known as the Mount Breast Group, it encompasses Perth Breast Clinic, individual clinicians, Perth Radiological Clinic and Western Diagnostic Pathology.

Dedicated to providing high-quality care, the Mount Breast Group's multi-disciplinary team meet weekly to review imaging and pathology, discuss optimal treatment plans and collaborate to ensure the smoothest process possible for women and their families.

Breast surgeon, Diana Hastrich, who has played an instrumental role in the service's evolution, said it had always been 'ahead of its time' and continued to be at the forefront of surgical advancements, treatments and therapies.

"When it began, the Perth Breast Clinic was one of the first in Australia to offer comprehensive assessment of women, and in rare cases men, with breast symptoms including clinical assessment, breast imaging and biopsy if required," she said.

"Early diagnosis is key to the successful management of breast cancer and for more than 20 years our same-day service has played a hugely important role for women, particularly for those living in rural areas.

"With highly-experienced breast physicians handling initial assessments, we have also been able to quickly reassure women when symptoms are relating to benign breast change, not cancer."

Today, the Mount Breast Group is one of the only all-encompassing facilities in Australia, enabling women to be guided and supported throughout the different phases of breast cancer, in one setting.

A key strength of the service is the Perth Radiological Clinic, which has committed personnel and resources to providing comprehensive breast imaging through mammography, tomography, advanced breast ultrasound, MRI scanning and nuclear medicine including sentinel node scans.

In addition, Western Diagnostic Pathology provides a complete suite of pathology services including same-day reporting of breast fine needle biopsy (FNA), core biopsy reporting, and immediate reporting of intra-operative sentinel node assessment.

Through its dedicated high-risk breast clinic, Mount Breast Group can also arrange genetic testing with Genetic Services of WA, for patients who have a family history of cancer.

Breast Care Nurse, Catherine Griffiths, is part of the team of specialised nurses who provide ongoing support and guidance for women battling breast cancer.

She said a breast cancer diagnosis was an extremely stressful and difficult time for women and their families and the Mount team did all they could to ease the burden.

"We assist with everything from answering questions and giving information surrounding treatments, breast prostheses and breast reconstruction; to explaining the 'ins and outs' of their stay in hospital," said Ms Griffiths.

"We make sure patients are aware of the support services available within the hospital and the wider community, and often organise support when leaving the hospital, especially if the patient needs to be referred to other services.

"Patients also have access to our out-patient services, where they may come back for wound checks, dressings and aspirations of sarcomas, if required.

"The Mount Hospital breast care service has - and continues to - provide a clinically exceptional, nurturing and supportive environment for women and their families."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
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# ORTHOPAEDICS WA EXPAND NORTH

Respected orthopaedic group offering 'no gap' care at Mount Hospital

One of Perth's largest private orthopaedic groups, Orthopaedics WA, has expanded north of the river, bringing high quality service to Mount Hospital.

The recent expansion means patients living in Perth's north will now have better access to highly skilled orthopaedic specialists through one of WA's leading private facilities.

Orthopaedics WA Practice Manager Vihara Yates said strong patient demand and the opportunity to establish a base at Mount Hospital were significant factors in their decision to expand.

"We're so thrilled to be able to expand our service to the north and service patients living in that area – there's definitely demand there," she said.

"Mount Hospital is a great fit for our group and we are very much looking forward to working with the team."

Orthopaedics WA's team of surgeons offer a wide range of treatments for medical conditions of the hip, knee, shoulder, foot and ankle. They also specialise in treating sports injuries and trauma.

"Our surgeons work in close collaboration, enabling easy cross referral for those with multiple or complex orthopaedic problems, providing an efficient service for our patients," said Mrs Yates.

"Our surgeons have also opted to be 'no gap' with private health funds, which is a huge benefit to patients, particularly in times when they are already stretched financially.

"All of our surgeons are passionate about being able to support more members of the community in accessing these services locally, without the financial strain."

Mrs Yates said they were focussed on accelerating patient recovery and ensuring a successful long-term outcome for patients requiring orthopaedic surgery.

"We use the latest technology and techniques from around the world and we are continually active in research to ensure we are up to date with industry advances and best practice," she said.

Mount Hospital General Manager Claire Fogarty said she was thrilled to welcome the group to Mount.

"Orthopaedics WA is a well-respected practice experienced in all areas of orthopaedic surgery," she said.

"Mount is continually looking to expand our services and having Orthopaedics WA on board is a great coup for us."

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# HOLISTIC TREATMENT KEY TO REHABILITATION SUCCESS



Dr Larry Liew, Director of Rehabilitation at Mount Hospital

**A** cohesive relationship between specialties and a holistic approach to treatment is what makes Mount Hospital's rehabilitation service unique, says Director of Rehabilitation, Dr Larry Liew.

Dr Liew, who has headed the service at Mount Hospital for more than two years, said patients received continuous treatment from the moment they are admitted to the hospital, right through to discharge.

"This strong cohesiveness transcends from specialty to specialty," he said.

"I think it is a really unique aspect of Mount Hospital and ensures the patient is getting the very best of care as multiple specialists work together alongside committed, focussed and dedicated staff."

Dr Liew said the rehabilitation ward was focused on short-term rehabilitation – usually around two weeks – and worked particularly closely with the hospital's cardiothoracic, cardiology, orthopaedic and neurosurgery services.

"It's critical we have a strong rehabilitation unit that operates alongside these clinical services," he said.

"It allows the surgical specialties to do their good work and then hand over the patients for us to assist and facilitate their recovery, so they go home feeling empowered."

Mount Hospital's dedicated rehabilitation ward comprises of 20 beds and is staffed with a multi-disciplinary team.

"We offer all the allied health components; physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology and dietetics to supplement what we're doing," said Dr Liew.

The ward also runs classes in nutrition, relaxation and a specialised gym and functional testing units to assess a patient's ability to manage at home.

"It's a really comprehensive service that helps people recover after surgery, so they can get home and get their life back on track," said Dr Liew.

Mount Hospital's rehabilitation Nurse Unit Manager, Sean McEvoy, said the transition from surgery to rehabilitation was seamless.

"Patients are introduced to the rehabilitation service by our case-mix management coordinator, Pauline Murray, who performs a critical role in identifying patients suitable for rehabilitation," he said.

"She meets patients while they are still in the surgical ward and then coordinates a seamless transfer to rehabilitation."

"She also re-engages them in the lead up to discharge to assist with planning to ensure adequate ongoing care, follow up and clinical support is arranged at home as necessary."

"Patients leave hospital inspired to re-engage with life after their stay in rehab."

Mr McEvoy said the nursing staff played an important role in restoring a patient's confidence during their rehabilitation journey.

"Confidence in their own abilities is vital, as is the self-confidence they need to return home," he said.

"We have a very focused and cohesive group of nurses who are fully committed to our patient's welfare."

**MOUNT HOSPITAL REHABILITATION**  
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[mounthospital.com.au/services/rehabilitation](http://mounthospital.com.au/services/rehabilitation)

# Your health is our priority

## Priority Admission Service

Mount Hospital provides a direct admission service for medical and cardiac patients with private health insurance and DVA Gold Card holders. Admission through your GP or Paramedic. No admission fees.



1800 668 681



### MOUNT HOSPITAL APPOINTS NEW GENERAL MANAGER TO OVERSEE GROWTH

**E**xperienced health executive, Claire Fogarty, has been appointed as General Manager of Mount Hospital as it continues to cement its position as a leading healthcare provider and embarks on a major phase of growth.

Mrs Fogarty was Acting General Manager before being officially appointed to the role in late 2017, following a lengthy recruitment process that attracted applicants from across Australia and internationally.

Mrs Fogarty has already introduced a number of major improvements to further bolster the hospital's core service areas, including the successful implementation of the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) program, a first for a private hospital in Western Australia.

Mrs Fogarty said she was looking forward to the challenge of leading the hospital's future growth, which included a significant \$15 million redevelopment, that commenced mid-year.

"I have been fortunate to join the team at an exciting time for Mount Hospital," she said.

"We have been actively planning for the future and recruiting a number of leading consultant specialists who will complement the great team we already have at Mount.

"We also have a number of major improvements in the pipeline, including the \$15 million Stage One redevelopment, which will see two additional cath labs - one of which will also be a state-of-the-art hybrid operating theatre.

"These new facilities will enable us to solidify our position as one of the busiest and most renowned private cardiac services in Australia, along with continuing to develop in a range of other key specialties.

"My vision is to lead - and work with - the team to bring fresh ideas and a focus on innovation to Mount, so it continues to enhance its position to become the premier private hospital in Perth."

Prior to joining Mount Hospital, Mrs Fogarty held senior roles at a number of major hospitals and healthcare providers in Western Australia and Tasmania.

She initially joined Mount as Director of Nursing in February last year.



## MOUNT CREATES ROLE OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND CLINICAL PROJECTS MANAGER

**M**ount Hospital’s new Business Development and Clinical Projects Manager, Raelee Denniston, is a professional ‘relationship builder’.

Ms Denniston has over 17 years experience as a registered nurse in Australia and the United Kingdom and has used her passion for travel and meeting new people to build an extensive network of contacts throughout the healthcare industry.

Her roles both as a nurse and experience as a cardiac nurse unit manager have also allowed her to develop strong business relationships in the medical device industry and with interventional radiologists, cardiologists and vascular surgeons.

As part of her new role, Ms Denniston will serve as Mount’s link between the project management team and external specialists in the medical sphere, alongside building new relationships with GPs and VMOs.

“Building relationships with the right people can open pathways to new medical treatments and services for our patients, so it is absolutely crucial to create and maintain connections in the industry,” she said.

“I look forward to using my network to help deliver - and fill - new services with fantastic specialists to ensure the growth and continued success of our hospital.

“I am eager to apply my knowledge and skills and to help manage the development of the new hybrid theatre and cardiac cath labs at Mount, as well as an upgrade to the Day Surgery Unit, as part of Stage One of the upcoming redevelopment.

“I have joined Mount at the start of a new chapter of growth for the hospital and I look forward to making this role my own to ensure Mount continues to cement itself as one of Western Australia’s leading medical hubs.”



## DIRECTOR OF NURSING RETURNS ‘HOME’ TO MOUNT HOSPITAL

**M**ount Hospital’s newly appointed Director of Nursing, Russell Cockburn, will be a familiar face to many staff and patients who remember his work as the hospital’s nurse manager.

Mr Cockburn has 19 years of experience in nursing, including his role as nurse manager at Mount Hospital from 2007 through to 2011, and said he felt like he had returned ‘home’ to take up his new position.

Mr Cockburn will oversee the daily operation, staffing, strategic planning and patient care guidelines across Mount Hospital’s nursing divisions. He said Mount Hospital stood apart from other medical institutions in Western Australia because of its tight-knit community of loyal staff and high standard of patient care. “I moved to Perth from the United Kingdom about 12 years ago, and have held a number of senior management roles at various

hospitals over the past six years,” Mr Cockburn said.

“I can honestly say Mount Hospital’s greatest strength is its people and it is wonderful to see so many familiar faces upon my return.

“I genuinely feel the level of care patients receive here is second-to-none and that is because we have been able to attract highly skilled and loyal staff who are continuously looking for ways to improve the services and facilities we offer.

“The \$15 million redevelopment of our facility, including our cardiac service, is something I am really excited about and is a large scale example of our commitment to be the best, but there are so many small things that occur on a daily basis which make a huge difference to the way people feel when they visit our hospital.”

Mr Cockburn has worked across both the public and private sectors

in operational positions including nurse manager and lecturer roles at university, to administrative roles and most recently, quality management for a 477 bed hospital in Murdoch, Western Australia

He has worked as nursing director at numerous hospitals including Peel Health Campus and Fiona Stanley Hospital. Mr Cockburn said he had recently completed his MBA and was looking forward to applying his knowledge and skills to his new role. “I have a background in hospital quality management, safety and clinical governance, which complements my experience working with staff and patients in a management capacity,” he said.

“My personal goal is to use this experience to continue to build on the cohesive culture of our team to deliver great outcomes over the coming years.”

# The Pinnacle // ISSUE 1



Mount Hospital is one of Perth's largest leading private hospitals. With 224 patient beds, Mount provides overnight, multi-day and same-day procedures.

As well as offering a comprehensive range of services across multiple specialties, we also pride ourselves on being the leading private provider of cardiac services in Western Australia, performing over 700 cardiac operations each year. Along with on-site medical officers and on-call cardiologists, we offer 24 hour emergency access to our cardiac catheter laboratories which are supported by the largest private coronary care unit in Western Australia.

In addition to our cardiac services, we also offer a range of clinical specialities including orthopaedics, neurosurgery, general and bariatric surgery, in-house rehabilitation and a comprehensive breast care service.

Mount Hospital is centrally located at the foot of Kings Park on Mounts Bay Road, with many of our medical specialists conveniently located on site along with diagnostic services including radiology, pathology, MRI and nuclear medicine.



*Mount Hospital has parking on-site, with over 120 bays available. There is also free public transport, with a bus stop located at the front entrance.*



Mount Hospital

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