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24 hour paediatric services now at Fairfield Hospital

Fairfield's youth can now access after-hours paediatric treatment closer to home with the newly enhanced 24 hour paediatric service at Fairfield Hospital.

The Hospital now has paediatric doctors available 24 hours a day, seven days a week which will ensure immediate and specialised care for newborn babies and to children in their late teens.

Fairfield Hospital's Head of Paediatrics Dr Laurence McCleary said he was pleased to provide a more comprehensive paediatric service closer to home for families in Fairfield.

"Going to hospital with a sick or injured child is scary, but having specialised treatment available after hours close to home is a comfort," said Dr McCleary.

"This enhancement of services means that we have dedicated children's doctors in the hospital providing around-the-clock coverage every day of the week.

"The service will provide support for overnight child presentations in the Emergency Department, provide ongoing care for both paediatric medical and surgical patients as well as continued care for the hospital's most vulnerable patients and sick babies in the neonatal nursery.

"The service has close links with the Sydney Children's Hospital Network and local tertiary neonatal intensive care units, ensuring patients receive the best possible care."

Fairfield Hospital General Manager Arnold Tammekand said that 48 per cent of paediatric patients are admitted after hours so the expansion of the service would greatly benefit the community.

"The emergency department receives approximately 8500 acute paediatric patients each year and given that almost half of those are after hours, it is ideal that we have a comprehensive service available," he said.

Services include:

- Dedicated children's doctors in the hospital, providing around-the-clock care every day of the week supported by tiered networks
- Paediatrician led care
- 24/7 Emergency Children's Medical Services, with support from the Department of Paediatrics
- A Neonatologist-led Neonatal Special Care Nursery and new-born follow-up services
- Family-friendly dedicated paediatric and adolescent inpatient areas, play facilities and adolescent-friendly entertainment
- The Paediatric Ambulatory Care Service(PACS), which conducts outpatient clinics, paediatric Burns Clinic (the Joint Outreach Paediatric Burns Service) and a nursing Paediatric Outreach Service (POS) providing care in the home

- Specialised surgical services including hand surgery and selected general surgery.
- A dedicated telephone number provided for general practitioners and allied community services to access prompt paediatric specialist advice or clinical referrals.