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Wheely good donation for Bowral & District Hospital

A donation of 10 wheelchairs from the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution (RFBI) is set to benefit patients at Bowral & District Hospital.

Joel Bardsley, General Manager, said the chairs would be used across the hospital for patients and carers who need a wheelchair for short term use.

"They will be available for patients who are being discharged from hospital but will require a wheelchair at home while they continue their recovery," he said.

"Having the wheelchair will mean they can get around their home and get out and about safely until they are back on their feet.

"Our community palliative care patients will also benefit from the new wheelchairs, as they will make it easier and safer for their carers to move them."

Mr Bardsley said the extra wheelchairs were lightweight and would provide a better experience for patients and their families.

"I want to extend the thanks to the RFBI on behalf of all the staff at Bowral & District Hospital," he said.

"Generous donations like this make a real difference to the service we are able to provide to our community and the more equipment, like wheelchairs, we can provide, the more patients and families we can help."

RFBI CEO, Frank Price, said helping people in need and improving people's lives was at the core of the RFBI.

"While we spend most of our time providing quality care and services to older people in our communities so that they can live the best life possible, supporting people in need remains an important and valued part of our work here at RFBI," he said.

"Through our Benevolent Program we have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to support individuals and provide assistance to those who need it most.

"We are delighted to provide these 10 wheelchairs for Bowral & District Hospital to make the lives of their patients a little bit easier."

The 2018/19 Budget for South Western Sydney Local Health District is more than \$1.89 billion, an increase of more than \$85 million on the 2017/18 Budget.

In addition, the NSW Government has committed \$15 million to redevelop Bowral & District Hospital's Emergency Department in addition to the \$50 million hospital upgrade already underway.

The upgraded hospital will include a clinical services building with a new main entrance along with new operating theatres, new inpatient units and expanded services.

About RFBI

RFBI was founded in 1880 to assist people in need and today is a respected not-for-profit aged care provider operating 21 residential care villages, 22 retirement villages and offering a range of home care services across NSW and ACT. Its comprehensive range of services allows older people to live life to the full. To find out more about RFBI visit rfbi.com.au or call 1800 181 959.