

## Media Release

### Clinic relocation for melanoma patients

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23 November 2009

**For immediate release**

Calvary Mater Newcastle management has decided to relocate outpatient clinics for patients with melanoma from the Melanoma Unit to the hospital's Medical Centre.

General Manager Colin Osborne said it was important for the community to be aware that the recent decision to relocate the melanoma clinics to the new hospital building is a positive step and is in the best interests of patient care," said Mr Osborne.

"This move is a management decision to address long-standing performance and internal issues with some nursing and clerical staff including grievances and issues relating to compliance with professional standards and hospital policy and procedure."

"Patients with melanoma up until now have been provided with outpatient services in the melanoma unit, however, management believes there are more benefits to patients at the new location in the medical centre – the main outpatient clinic located within the new hospital.

"As part of the move, patients now attending melanoma outpatient clinics will have increased access to many other key hospital services due to their clinic appointments now being centrally located alongside speciality services.

"The NBN Telethon Mater Institute continues its role as a centre of cancer care excellence continuing to house the Melanoma Unit, world class research trials such as the Australia New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group, Hunter BreastScreen and the hospital's surgical clinics," said Mr Osborne.

The Melanoma Unit is part of Calvary Mater Newcastle and the hospital owns the NBN Telethon Mater Institute. The building was built with funds raised by an NBN Telethon which were augmented by a government contribution - the ongoing operation of the Melanoma Unit is entirely funded by the NSW Government.

Mr Osborne added that the generosity of the community in helping to establish the NBN Telethon Mater Institute is very much still appreciated and respected today, and the units that are part of the institute setting will continue as centres of excellence in the study and care of breast and melanoma cancer.

If patients with melanoma would like further information about the clinic relocation, please call 4921 1116.

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