

7 November 2018

Boost for sick babies in the Illawarra

Unwell babies or those born prematurely in our region will benefit from the donation of a new, state of the art humidicrib to Wollongong Hospital's Neonatal Unit thanks to i98FM Illawarra Convoy.

Neonatal Unit Acting Nurse Unit Manager, Danielle Coggan, said the new humidicrib will enhance the care staff can provide to the region's sickest babies.

"Our unit provides care to approximately 600-700 babies and their families throughout the Illawarra Shoalhaven region each year," Ms Coggan said.

"Our babies, some born prematurely and as small as one kilogram, require constant monitoring and care by our highly skilled staff to help them grow and thrive. The humidicrib provides a stable temperature which prevents fluid loss and helps with baby growth and weight gain.

"We are so grateful to Convoy, and the people who support their fundraising efforts, for helping us to enhance the care we provide to these vulnerable babies and their families," she said.

The new humidicrib has a number of benefits, including that it can easily be converted from a closed to an open care system. This means the baby does not need to be moved from the crib to another bed for medical procedures.

The flexible design also allows parents to be involved in caring for their baby and this interaction is important to the well-being of both the baby and the family.

"We know how important it is for parents and baby to bond, and the humidicrib's design allows for close interaction, even when it is closed. This enhances the overall outcomes for the baby," Ms Coggan said.

Illawarra Community Foundation Manager Mark Rigby said the Foundation, which distributes the funds raised through Convoy, is proud to support local hospitals.

"Providing support to our hospitals helps the staff enhance the care for people within our local community, many of whom also donate to Convoy," he said.

Media opportunity: interviews/film ops available at Wollongong Hospital Children's Ward Thursday 8 November at 1pm.