



Hospital opens nursery amid \$4m revamp

Mamma and Mia: Amanda Lincoln holds baby daughter Mia, with nursing sisters Sally Mullone (left) and Hazel O'Connor, at Hurstville Community Private Hospital's new special care nursery. **Picture:** Lisa McMahon

A BABY for Christmas is a special gift, but when a newborn needs a little extra help settling into the world, the holiday season can be harder to get through than most new parents expect.

Mother Amanda Lincoln knows this all too well, but baby Mia arrived just in time to be treated at Hurstville Community Private Hospital's new special care nursery, which was commissioned by the NSW Department of Health on December 5.

The nursery is part of the hospital's \$4 million upgrades, which are expected to be fully completed by early February.

Hospital chief executive Louise Dodd said the upgrade from three beds to five in the nursery would meet the needs arising from a growing number of births.

"We are up to 900 new babies born [at the hospital] into the community a year," she said. "The projection is that we will probably reach 1000 babies by the end of 2009."

Three new maternity beds, four new beds in the high-dependency unit, and eight new beds in the surgical unit will also be added to the hospital as part of the upgrades.

By the end of January, the hospital is also expecting the redirection of the driveway and 50 new car-parking spaces to be completed.

The upgrades come a year after surgeons from Sydney Urology and Sydney Colorectal in Kogarah took over the hospital from Catholic group Little Company of Mary Health Care.

Pedestrian fence on the agenda

HURSTVILLE Council is considering a request to install a pedestrian fence in Bridge Street, outside Penshurst station.

This has been prompted by a resident's concern that schoolchildren can walk straight onto the road from the station without using the nearby pedestrian crossing.

The council will consider the request as part of its traffic management study for the Penshurst shopping strip.

St George call centre a winner

AS staff wait to hear of possible job losses following the St George Bank-Westpac merger, St George's customer call centre at Kogarah has been recognised as among the world's best.

It won a gold medal at the Customer Contact Centre World Awards in Las Vegas, decided on by an international judging panel.

The centre has 983 staff and takes more than 22,000 calls a day.

The Finance Sector Union has warned of up to 5000 possible job losses following the merger, particularly back-office operations.

Work honoured

FORMER Hurstville councillor Chris Lee has been honoured by the council for his service to the community. Cr Lee, who serviced two terms on council representing Peakhurst Ward, was presented with a plaque by Hurstville Mayor Vince Badalati at a recent council meeting.

Simply bring a NEW school supply item to donate and enjoy the fun at the Dora the Explorer Craft Zone. Dora will even be there for you to meet!

Saturday 10 Jan
11am - 2pm*
in front of Kmart

School supply donations for the St Vincent de Paul Society will be accepted at Southgate through 25 January. A donation bin is located outside Kmart.

*CRAFT ZONE WILL BE OPEN 11AM-2PM. DORA WILL APPEAR AT: 11-11.30AM, 12-12.30PM, 1-1.20PM, 1.40-2PM. CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED BY CARERS AT ALL TIMES. OPERATION BACKPACK IS AN INITIATIVE OF SOUTHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE ON BEHALF OF THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY. ALL ITEMS COLLECTED WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO FAMILIES IN THE SUTHERLAND AND ST GEORGE AREAS BY VOLUNTEERS FROM THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY IN TIME FOR THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

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