

Healthy rise in patients

VANESSA BRADBURY

NORWEST Private Hospital is becoming a hive of medical expertise the north-west has been waiting for.

In the five months since its doors were officially opened, it has had a 20 per cent increase in admissions.

The departments which have seen the biggest influx of patients have been radiology and emergency.

Norwest Private Hospital general manager Deborah Fogarty said in the first five months, the hospital had exceeded all expectations by performing about 5500 operations and admitting almost 8000 patients.

"We have also delivered 29 per cent more babies than were delivered at The Hills Private Hospital and have attended to almost 4000 patients through the emergency department," she said.

"Our state-of-the-art new facility has already attracted 30 new specialists, in our core areas of expertise, and we have commenced neurosurgery, ophthalmology and ocular plastics."

She said urology and vascular services were also expanding quickly, and a new chemotherapy unit would open in May.

A chartered accountant with 20 years experience in four multinational companies, Mrs Fogarty grew up in the Hills and has seen first-hand the population growth in the area in the past 15 years. She described her role as



Norwest Private Hospital general manager Deborah Fogarty with emergency medical director Stephen Madden and head radiologist John Magnussen.

Picture: JOE MURPHY

both manager of the daily operational requirements of the hospital and marketing, with the aim of increasing the hospital's occupancy.

Joining Mrs Fogarty is head radiologist John Magnussen and emergency medical director Stephen Madden.

Dr Magnussen said the radiology department was world class,

with all the latest technology, and was available to patients 24 hours.

"Our aim here is to make sure the right people look after our patients' specific needs," he said.

Sharing himself between Norwest and a three-day posting at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, he said he was really enjoying working with such modern technology.

Dr Madden said his department

had been busy and had seen a marked increase in admissions. "This is a relatively small-scale operation and our focus is to try to be more personal in our approach and deliver quality of care. Because it is the point of entry to the hospital, it is important that our care for the patients is spot on and with our very experienced staff we are certainly doing that."