



Private hospital expands rapidly

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NORWEST Private Hospital is ready for a \$25 million expansion to meet growing demand and create an extra 100 new jobs.

The purchase of a complete wing of consultancy rooms to provide an extra operating theatre and 43 more beds was approved by the board of Healthscope last week – just eight months after the hospital's official opening.

Growing demand for the hospital's services since it moved from its old site on Windsor Rd at Baulkham Hills to its imposing new premises at Norbrik Drive, Bella Vista, has been bigger and faster than planners expected.

Norwest Private Hospital's general manager Deborah Fogarty

said births at the new premises were up 41 per cent, the number of operations had increased by 20 per cent and patient visits to the emergency department were up by 20 per cent.

Figures for the first eight months at the Norwest Private Hospital were compared to the same eight months at the old Hills Private Hospital.

Ms Fogarty said the staff were responsible for the success of the hospital.

"A lot of people here have had a lot of personal pride in what we have achieved in such a short time."

Healthscope has bought an en-

tire wing from the hospital's developer.

Plans will now be submitted to Hills Shire Council to refurbish the entire floor to provide an extra hospital wing which would include a new operating theatre and room for 43 new beds which would possibly become the new maternity unit.

The existing maternity unit has 37 beds out of a total of 171. There are 10 operating theatres.

Ms Fogarty said she hoped the new wing would approved quickly and would be operational in 12 months.

Norwest Private Hospital has unveiled a new addition with the opening of Hudson's Coffee offering coffee, tea, cold drinks and sweet and savoury food.

It will be enjoyed by the 700 employees, 300 doctors, and patients and visitors. "Hudson's Coffee will certainly become a focal point in the hospital for staff, patients and visitors," Norwest Private Hospital general manager Deborah Fogarty said. "We received exceptional feedback from other Healthscope hospital patrons where Hudson's Coffee sites are located, which gave us a clear understanding about the success of the Hudson's Coffee business and its dedicated franchisees."



Deborah Fogarty, general manager of the rapidly expanding Norwest Private Hospital.

Picture:
Alex Wisser