



New unit lifts spirits of chemotherapy patients

BEV JORDAN

BILL Tidmarsh has undergone chemotherapy to treat his cancer for nearly 10 years and is already a big fan of the newly opened oncology unit at Norwest Private Hospital.

The unit, which has eight chairs and two beds, is more than double the size of the previous unit at the Hills Private Hospital and offers a light and bright environment.

For some patients chemotherapy can take up to eight hours a day so having a

relaxing environment is important.

With the unit treating between 150 and 175 patients a month, the need to expand its services was evident.

The new dedicated unit opened at the beginning of the month.

Unit manager Debby Moran said the response from patients and staff had been good.

There is room for each patient to have a visitor plus individual television screens and radios plus a false skylight.

Mrs Moran said treatment was

very individual to each patient. "We try to provide a service that fits in with their lifestyle and their work . . . we try to be flexible so that the chemo is not the main focus of their life, that their life continues around it."

Mr Tidmarsh was first diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma in 2000 and has lost count of the number of treatments he has undergone. He's impressed by the new unit. "This is fantastic," he said. "It's almost too good to be true."



Oncology patient Bill Tidmarsh in the oncology unit with unit manager Debby Moran.

Picture: JOE MURPHY