

## Dedicated Carer's Zone



**Carers will soon have the opportunity to stay overnight with a patient thanks to a dedicated carer's zone included in each single room in Dubbo Hospital's new surgical in-patient unit, which is currently under construction.**

Each carer's zone features a couch with in-built storage that converts into a single bed at night, allowing a family member or carer to provide support and assistance to a patient while they are recovering.

Hospital General Manager, Debbie Bickerton said the carer's zone was designed by staff and consumers during planning phase to improve the health outcomes for patients after surgery.

"Patients often feel disorientated after surgery, which can be distressing for the patient and sometimes slow the recovery process.

"Having a family member in the room with the patient to support them after surgery has been shown to improve the patient experience and give them a better chance of recovering sooner," said Ms Bickerton.

Each patient will be assessed individually by nursing staff in the in-patient unit to determine whether the carer's zone is a suitable option for them and their carer. During their stay, the carer is provided with linen and can utilise the patient's ensuite and family lounge area within the unit.

The new and expanded surgical unit has been built above the maternity unit in the clinical services building and features 34 beds, including 14 single rooms.

"We've increased our single rooms from four to 14 which is a great outcome for patients and the remaining rooms have only two beds per room, which will greatly improve the patient experience," said Ms Bickerton.

Construction for the surgical in-patient unit is nearing completion, with patients and staff scheduled to move in to the new unit in the first half of 2018 following the commissioning period.

*For more information please visit:*

*[www.dubbohospitalredevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dubbohospitalredevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au)*