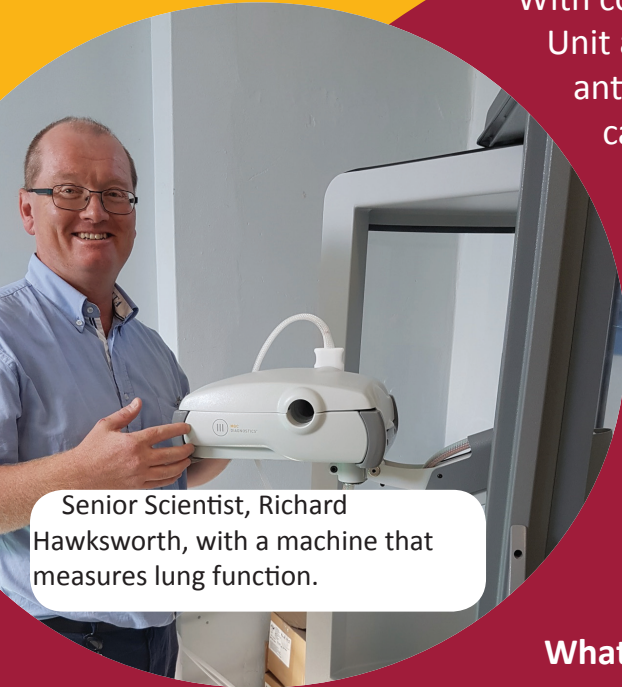


Project Insights

Respiratory Function Lab



Senior Scientist, Richard Hawksworth, with a machine that measures lung function.

With construction well underway for the new In-patient Unit and final touches being made to the detailed design, anticipation is building among hospital staff about the day they can move into their new facilities.

Senior Scientist in the Lung Function Lab, Richard Hawksworth has played an important role in the planning and design of the new Respiratory Unit which will be part of the Ambulatory Care Centre in the new three storey building.

We sat down with Richard to talk about how the new layout of the Respiratory Unit will improve the way his Lung Function Lab is able to treat patients and improve work flow.

What is your role in the Respiratory Unit?

I am the senior scientist in the Lung Function Lab and perform pulmonary physiology tests for patients with respiratory issues who are referred to me by specialists or GPs.

What are some of the constraints of your current facility?

Our unit has recently expanded and we are running out of room. The current layout of the facility also makes it a challenge to accommodate patients for diagnostic testing and those who attend our respiratory clinics.

How will the new unit improve the way you treat patients?

The new unit will sit within a broader clinical space, promoting independent service for broader patient referrals, particularly from primary care and outpatient clinics. The layout will also allow our unit to become more of a one-stop-shop for patients for clinic and diagnostic services. It will also help us better manage patient visits, allowing us to book multiple outpatient appointments for the one patient on the same day to avoid several trips to the unit.

How will the new unit benefit staff?

While the new unit is purpose-built for better patient and work flow, we have also designed the space to give us more work flexibility. The new unit will allow us to re-purpose our clinic and diagnostic areas if required to meet the future demands for our service. I look forward to our unit becoming an independent respiratory physiology service that can meet the needs of the whole region.

Meet the team

Name: Lorraine the Crane

Position: Large construction crane

Responsibilities: Moving large steel frames and other heavy materials to help build the new In-patient Unit.

Tell us a little bit about yourself: I live locally, work very hard during the day and sleep on site at night. I was recently named Lorraine The Crane by 11-year-old Jaiden Pearce from Orana Heights Primary who won our "name the crane" school competition. To celebrate, we had a special naming ceremony with Jaiden and his family, the school principal, local Member for Dubbo, Troy Grant and representatives from the hospital, Health Infrastructure Savills and Hansen Yuncken. I felt very special.

Favourite colour: Red

Favourite food: Bricks

Are you are cat or a dog person?

I like people more than animals. Dog and cats tend to be a bit scared around me.

What do you like doing when you're not at work? I love to work so, when I am not working, I am thinking about work and getting ready for another big day on site.

