

Media Release
30 June 2009



Doing it for the kids: Southern Health launches new children's service

Families in Melbourne's south-east are set to continue to benefit with the new identity for Australia's third largest children's hospital, *Monash Children's*.

Southern Health is also launching 13 KIDS (13 5437) - a dedicated phone line for the *Monash Children's*, making phone contact easier for families.

Getting behind the initiative, Australian cricket captain Ricky Ponting and wife Rianna said *Monash Children's*, Victoria's second largest children's hospital, was something in which they are proud of being involved.

"Rianna and I welcome the launch of *Monash Children's*. We came away from our visit to the children's wards of Southern Health's *Monash Medical Centre* in February inspired by the fantastic results being achieved there," the Pontings said.

"We are both driven to support the journey of childhood cancer and wholeheartedly endorse any initiative to advance the community's recognition and support of *Monash Children's*, one of the best and biggest children's hospitals in the nation."

The Head of the Women and Children's Program at Southern Health, Professor Nick Freezer, said it was important to increase public awareness of the true scope of paediatric services *Monash Children's* delivers in south-east Melbourne, to encourage our communities to help it grow by supporting it in any way they can.

"*Monash Medical Centre Clayton* is the only designated tertiary paediatric service in Victoria other than the *Royal Children's*, with which we have many partnerships", he said.

Along with our *Dandenong* and *Casey Hospitals*, *Monash Children's* also forms Australia's third largest children's hospital service. *Monash Children's* will now operate the children's programs at these three locations with an internationally known name to gain greater recognition for the quality services for children delivered at all sites.

Professor Freezer explained that in addition to the major facilities already at *Clayton*, *Dandenong* and *Casey Hospitals*, Southern Health was developing plans to expand at *Clayton* with a new children's wing.

"We are working to make sure our infrastructure and services can meet a growing population in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs and beyond," Professor Freezer said.

The fast growing south-east region of Melbourne, Victoria is home to over 330,000 children aged between 0-19 years. We offer a single integrated newborn, child and adolescent service with our care conveniently located right where the children need it.

For more information contact Southern Health Media Manager Suzana Talevski on 9594 2474 or 0409023936



Monash Children's
Monash Medical Centre, Clayton
246 Clayton Road, Clayton

Monash Children's – Dandenong
Dandenong Hospital
David Street, Dandenong

Monash Children's - Casey
Casey Hospital
Kangan Drive, Berwick