

MEDIA RELEASE

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Baby born on Toowoomba icon's 105th birthday

FAMILY members were not the only ones to welcome baby Shania Hall into the world today.

Little Shania was born at the Toowoomba Hospital at 8.52am on the 105th birthday of one of the city's icons, Kathleen Hildred Dickson.

In the 1960s, Kath Dickson played an important part in the education of children in the city of Toowoomba and emerged as a figure of great compassion in the community.

Her legacy continues today with child care centres, kindergartens and playgroups established across the south east, bearing her name.

To mark her birthday and the organisation's 40th anniversary, the Kath Dickson Family Centre Chief Executive Officer Masoud Ali-Akbari along with management committee members Tricia Mark and Shirley Gillespie visited the Toowoomba Hospital's maternity unit to present baby Shania and their family with a teddy bear.

It is the first time the centre has marked their founder's birthday with a visit to the hospital's Harbison Unit.

"It was a small gesture that we decided to do to celebrate Kath Dickson's birthday and to keep her legacy alive in the community," Mr Ali-Akbari said.

Mum Shei Wallace said the tiny teddy bear was something the family would cherish.

"It was a lovely surprise to meet Masoud and find out a little about Kath Dickson and what she meant to community," Ms Wallace said.

"I am sure the teddy bear will be with Shania for many years to come."

Toowoomba Hospital Maternity Unit Manager Peta Zupp thanked Mr Ali-Akbari and representatives from the Kath Dickson Family Centre for their visit and for brightening the day of the unit's patients.

Caption: Welcoming baby Shania Hall into the world are (back, from left) Shirley Gillespie, Masoud Ali-Akbari and Tricia Mark from the Kath Dickson Family Centre, with dad Shaun Hall, sister Tashauna Hall and mum Shei Wallace.

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