MEDIA RELEASE

26 June, 2015

Local knitters brighten patients’ days

Toowoomba Hospital volunteer Barb Mathews is part of a group that been helping to make a stay in hospital a little easier for young patients.

“When I was approached about making ‘pillow teddies’ for children going into the Paediatric Unit at Toowoomba Hospital, I knew it would be too much for one person so I brought the idea to the knitting and crocheting group here at East Creek Community Centre,” Barb said.

“Everyone in the group has been happy to help with knitting these teddies because we know they bring a smile to the faces of the little ones who have to spend some time in hospital.”

Jeff Reeves, Nurse Unit Manager of Toowoomba Hospital’s Paediatric Unit, said the pillow teddies provided a great boost to young patients.

“This is a truly thoughtful initiative and we’re very thankful to the East Creek Community Centre knitting group,” Mr Reeves said.

“It’s great to be able to give the kids something that they can enjoy while they’re here and then take home with them.”

The knitting and crocheting group also made beanies for babies in the hospital’s special care nursery and knitted caps for palliative care patients.

“It’s a way to let the families and patients know that someone cares and is thinking of them,” Barb said.

“We also have a group that makes blankets out of recycled jumpers and other donated materials, and these are donated to the homeless, to refugees, people in refuges or crisis care, children in foster care, and victims of disasters overseas, such as the people affected recently by Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu.”

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