



# media release

Corner Hawkesbury Road & Hainsworth Street, Westmead NSW 2145

the  
children's  
hospital at Westmead



3 August 2016

## **New technology reduces radiation exposure for children**

Patients at The Children's Hospital at Westmead will be the first in New South Wales to benefit from the installation of a new CT scanner when it is officially launched on Friday, 5 August.

The new technology, which is only available in one other paediatric hospital in Australia, will provide safer diagnostic and medical care for children by reducing radiation exposure by more than 50 per cent.

The cutting-edge CT scanner will also have the ability to deliver quicker and more accurate scans and 3D images of the body, assisting in the diagnosis and treatment of children with a vast array of medical conditions including emergency trauma, cancer, complex heart conditions and cystic fibrosis.

The upgrade to the Siemen's SOMATOM Force CT scanner was worth two million dollars and was generously funded by Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation.

"Thanks to Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation, we are now able to ensure that we are continuing to provide world class medical diagnosis and treatment for sick children in our care," Chief Executive, Dr Michael Brydon said.

"The significant reductions in radiation exposure and more accurate diagnoses are just some of the exciting benefits of this new technology that hold huge promise for our patients. There is also great potential for surgeons to now plan complex surgical procedures and treatments using this technology, which they were unable to do before."

The new technology will not only assist with monitoring the condition of the child, but may also open up new avenues for treatment.

"This new machine is able to detect more accurately and quickly the nature and severity of injuries and conditions in patients and can provide this information in a much safer and lower radiation environment."

"These benefits will have an enormous impact on children with serious injuries and chronic conditions and may, in fact, help to improve their quality of life," senior radiographer, Rachel Fitzpatrick said.

This generous gift is one of many donated by Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation over the years. As a major benefactor of The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation has given more than \$14.7 million since 1998, helping to give sick children access to the highest quality medical equipment and paediatric care.

### **MEDIA CALL**

The new CT scanner will be officially launched on **Friday, 5 August at 11am** by **16-year-old cystic fibrosis patient, Sophia Thompson Keppel Richard, Senior Radiographer, Rachel Fitzpatrick and Logistics Manager of Sargents Pies, Mr Brian Andrews.**

Sophia has been receiving treatment at the Hospital for cystic fibrosis since she was three-years-old and has just used the upgraded scanner before beginning a new treatment.

**Media Contact | Sarah Palmer**  
9845 0512 | [sarah.palmer@health.nsw.gov](mailto:sarah.palmer@health.nsw.gov)