

# New cognitive dysfunction program at Robina Private Hospital supporting Gold Coast families

Patients and their families coming to terms with a diagnosis of cognitive dysfunction can now access an extended specialised service on their doorstep at Robina Private Hospital on the central Gold Coast.

Since opening its doors in 2016, Robina Private has delivered specialised mental health care for older persons; due to demand, it has expanded its outpatient assessment, inpatient care, memory clinic and specialised day programs.

The new cognitive dysfunction unit responds to the growing needs of the Gold Coast's ageing population, and has resulted in the 12-bed expansion to 72 mental health beds.

The new 12 bed specialised care unit is part of the existing ward, but caters specifically for patients with cognitive dysfunction, Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The unit offers best practice for the management of patients with cognitive impairment and associated psychiatric issues, jointly managed with psychogeriatric and geriatric medicine.

This involves a specialised service with nursing, allied health and geriatric and psychiatric medical care for assessment, treatment and functional improvement



specific to this patient cohort. A structured and systematic approach ensures the needs of patients their families and carers are comprehensively met.

The service is led by Dr Penny King, psychogeriatric specialist, and Dr Rohit Bansal, geriatric medicine specialist, who lead a specialised multidisciplinary team of experienced clinicians.

Robina Private Hospital CEO, Claire Thurwood acknowledges that for many people and their families a diagnosis of cognitive dysfunction can be distressing and accessing appropriate care environments and treatments difficult.

“Our city's ageing population means that Robina Private Hospital's new Older Persons' Specialised Care Unit is the next logical step to continue to support our local community and provide services not just for these people, but for carers and their family as well.”

“We know that for many people with cognitive dysfunction a hospital stay can be a negative experience. Our unit provides a calm, safe space for patients to receive care and participate in a range of specially tailored inpatient programs to support cognitive stimulation and improve physical and mental well-being”, says Claire.

Accommodation at Robina Private Hospital's Older Persons' Specialised Care Unit is in spacious single rooms with private ensuite and includes excellent food service, comfortable lounge and communal areas

## ABOUT COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION

People with cognitive dysfunction experience a loss of intellectual functions such as thinking, remembering, and reasoning to an extent that it interferes with their daily functioning and quality of life. They may have trouble with verbal recall, basic arithmetic, and concentration.

More severe forms of cognitive dysfunction are most often seen in diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and dementia but also can be associated with conditions such as chronic fatigue syndrome, multiple sclerosis, depression, Huntington's and Parkinson's disease to name a few.

Treatments largely depend on how the disorder is caused. Medication and therapies are the most common treatments but there is currently no cure.

Early recognition however allows for diagnosis and appropriate treatment, education, psychosocial support, and engagement in shared decision-making regarding life planning, health care, involvement in research, and financial matters.

where carers and the family are welcome to visit. The décor and furnishings create a calm and soothing atmosphere where patients feel safe and secure to complement the specialist care delivered by the specialists and highly trained nursing team.

**For further information or to arrange a referral, please contact Robina Private Hospital on 07 5665 5100.**

## Patients in need of general medical, rehabilitation, mental health or dementia care?

Robina's newest private hospital can help with a range of surgical, medical, rehabilitation and psychological needs. We are an established 90 bed private hospital provider in Queensland's Robina Health Precinct and have proudly been helping Gold Coasters since 2016.

Robina  
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