

## Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital

is a private hospital which cares for children and young people aged from birth to 16 years.

Allowah was first established in a house in Artarmon over 50 years ago and was relocated to its present site in Dundas, New South Wales in 1976.

In February 2004 Allowah was purchased by the Presbyterian Church and is currently undergoing a major redevelopment programme.

Our goal is to make a real difference to the lives of these children who, in all probability, may never enjoy many stages and opportunities in life that we take for granted.



An artist's impression of the proposed Allowah site after the redevelopment

## Day Care Programme

Available from 8:30am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday (excludes public holidays).

Individually planned programmes which complement those already established by the child's community team.

We have met with considerable success in specialised short term programmes to resolve difficult feeding and sleeping problems.

Day Care includes all the services available to children receiving night care. In most cases, the cost of day patient care is covered by your private health fund - Day Only.

## Mission Statement

Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital exists to provide quality care and support to children with disabilities as well as their families.

At all times we will strive to achieve excellence in medical and care practices.

We also commit ourselves to treating our clientele with respect and dignity, and providing them with emotional and spiritual support within a Christian environment which maximizes their quality of life.



# Caring For Children and Young People with Disabilities



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To make a donation to the work at Allowah please phone 02 9690 9376 or visit the website.



## What are our aims?

- To provide the highest quality of skilled care and to enable each child to develop and achieve his or her fullest potential by providing individual programmes.
- To ensure that in their care and treatment, each child's entitlements to their rights, privacy, respect, and dignity are met.
- To provide programmed managed care so that more children, young people, and adolescents with special needs/disabilities are supported at home as part of the family unit.

## Who do we care for?

Children aged from birth to 16 years who have moderate to severe physical and intellectual disabilities such as genetic or chromosomal disorders, birth trauma, cerebral palsy and head injuries.

## What geographical area?

We accept children from throughout New South Wales and, where necessary, Australia wide.

## Temporary care and Crisis Intervention

From time to time infants, children, and adolescents require temporary care in hospital when they require feeding programmes, assessment and resolution of behavioural problems, intensive physiotherapy, relief from family crises, and other medical care.

## Individual Family Service Plans

Each child will have a yearly multi-disciplinary meeting called an "IFSP". From this new goals are set in consultation with the family. These goals are reviewed periodically and alterations are made to the child's Care Management Plan.

## Open Door Policy

Any views, concerns or opinions are welcome at any time. This can be done by phoning or writing to the Executive Director of Nursing or by completing the praise, complaints or suggestions form.

## What Staff and Services are provided?

- 24 Hour medical and nursing care. This includes: Paediatricians, General Practitioners, Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses, and Assistants in Nursing. The Paediatricians liaise with the child's own medical specialist regarding treatment.
- Physiotherapy - Movement assessment and interventions to enhance function.
- Occupational Therapy - Focusing on upper limb function, personal care programmes (eg. self feeding, toileting, showering, dressing), computer, switch technology intervention, and equipment provision (wheelchairs, corner seats, bath aids ...)
- Speech Pathology - Swallowing, eating, drinking, communication assessment, management and intervention.
- Chaplains provide support and pastoral care.
- Social Work - Supporting the family and liaising with the caseworker assisting in transition.
- Dietician - Nutritional assessment and input.
- Supporting all the direct care staff is administration and domestic services.
- Leisure and Recreational activities include sensory stimulation and music therapy.
- Group activities include art, outdoor play, cooking, and massage.
- Specialised programmes to overcome specific difficulties - feeding, irritability, communication, and sleep behaviours.
- Integrated rehabilitation therapy for the young child with head injuries.
- Self feeding and mealtime management programmes.

## How do we support parents

### Parents are encouraged to:

- Visit as often as they are able.
- Discuss with nursing and therapy staff their child's progress and any difficulties.

### We provide:

- Support, guidance, counselling, and pastoral care.
- Reasonable Out-of-Hours support if needed.

## What do we expect of Parents?

Parents must sign the appropriate claim forms at the hospital on discharge and ensure that health fund contributions are maintained up to date at all times. Funds will not process any claims whilst there are any contributions in arrears.

## Who provide the Clothes?

Parents are required to supply personal clothing for the children. All clothes must be marked with sewn name tags. An appropriate amount of clothing is to be packed for each admission.

## What costs are involved?

Allowah is licensed as a General and Rehabilitation Private Hospital. All admissions must have Hospital Insurance Cover with one of the recognised health funds. Under normal circumstances, top hospital cover should provide sufficient rebate to cover hospital fees. If you have an annual excess, you would be expected to pay this to the hospital when invoiced.

- Costs for medications and disposable incontinent pads if supplied by Allowah.
- Children involved in Third Party Claims (Vehicle Accident) and are subject to confirmation by Insurance Company will have fees met by Allowah.
- Children may be admitted who have special funding attached to their admission.



For more information or to arrange a tour or booking please contact  
Allowah on **02 9858 4994** or email **admin@allowah.org.au**

