



**Department of Health**  
Government of **Western Australia**  
South Metropolitan Area Health Service

## New electronic beds

3 June 2008

Nurses and patients at Fremantle and Kaleeya Hospitals are all reaping the benefits of the arrival of 70 new electric beds.

Sixty-two of the beds will be installed at Fremantle and eight at Kaleeya Hospital over the next few weeks. This is in addition to the existing electric beds already installed.

Both hospitals will eventually replace all the older style hospital beds with the new electric models because they improve patient comfort and safety as well as reduce manual handling for nursing, medical and allied health staff.

For nurses like Anissa Emeran, who works with elderly patients at Fremantle Hospital, the new beds dramatically reduce physical handling and the risk of back and knee problems.

"With the older beds there was a wind-up mechanism which meant you had to bend a lot during a shift to operate the beds." Anissa said.

"The new electric beds are fantastic and allow me to more easily re-position patients comfortably or to assist them into and out of bed without the need to bend excessively.

"Many of our elderly patients have reduced mobility so being able to lower a bed quickly and easily really makes a big difference to their ability to get in and out of bed.

"The new beds also give patients greater independence with managing their own comfort in bed as they can reposition themselves without assistance using the electronic controls.

"Things are always improving. In the past 18 months the ward I work on has received new flooring, new defibrillators and we are now putting the new beds into the ward."

Fremantle Hospital and Health Service, A/Executive Director of Nursing Brett Evans said the hospital was constantly looking at ways to improve conditions for nurses.

"Like all public hospitals we are continually looking at ways to reduce manual handling, and to update equipment to take advantage of new technologies. These ultimately help us deliver better patient care and improve working conditions for our valuable nursing staff," he said.

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