



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

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**23 July 2008**

### **New Hyperbaric Chamber for Fremantle Hospital**

There's been a new arrival at Fremantle Hospital - her name is Rebecca but this is no ordinary arrival.

Rebecca, which was funded by the Commonwealth Government's Pathways Home Program, is the newest chamber to be installed in the hospital's Department of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine.

Fremantle Hospital is the State Referral Centre for hyperbaric medicine with patients travelling from all over the state for treatment.

Hyperbaric medicine is oxygen therapy in which a patient breathes 100 per cent pure oxygen at pressures greater than the normal atmospheric pressure.

Traditionally this treatment is well known for treating divers with decompression sickness or the 'bends.'

It is also widely used to aid healing after radiation treatment, some surgery and some chronic wounds.

Rebecca is the second monoplace chamber (for one patient at a time) in the department, which also houses two larger chambers' that can treat several patients at any one time.

Mr Kim Baker attends Fremantle Hospital every day for his daily session of hyperbaric treatment. He uses the new monoplace chamber for two hours a day, five days a week for six weeks.

Mr Baker was the first patient to be treated in Rebecca and is receiving hyperbaric treatment to aid healing from radiation treatment he had several years ago.

It is hoped that a six-week course of hyperbaric therapy will improve and increase the healing process for Mr Baker.

ENDS

\* The new chamber cost \$178,000

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