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AT-RISK NEWBORN RECEIVES POST-SURGERY CARE IN STATE-OF-THE-ART HUMIDICRIB – A SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE FIRST, AT ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN

Cremorne baby Emmeline Garner, born on Tuesday night, may only be a few days old but is already experiencing the very latest technology.

Emmeline is being cared for at the Royal Hospital for Women at Randwick's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) inside the Southern Hemisphere's only Dräger* 'Babyleo' humidicrib following surgery for the congenital condition gastroschisis.

Dr Ju Lee Oei, Neonatologist, said gastroschisis (pronounced gas-troh-skee-sis) occurred in about one in every 2000 babies, resulting in some of the infant's intestines protruding outside a small hole in its abdominal wall.

Babies with this condition require immediate surgery to correct the condition.

"Emmeline's surgery was very successful and she is doing really well. The challenge now, is to ensure her feeding is established properly. She'll remain in the neonatal intensive care unit for several weeks," Dr Oei said.

The Royal Hospital for Women is the state's centre of excellence in the care of women and newborn babies, and is NSW's pre-eminent facility for neonatal surgery.

Newborns who have undergone surgery require round-the-clock specialist care, including placement and intravenous feeding in temperature-controlled cribs.

The 'Babyleo' crib is regarded as being "as close as possible to the mum's womb", with three thermoregulators and various other special features.

Two 'Babyleo' cribs, valued at \$53,000 each, were purchased for the hospital through funds raised by Eastern Suburbs resident Harriet Waugh who hosted The Public House Management Group fundraiser last year at Bistro Moncur at Woollahra.

Trish O'Brien, Chief Executive, Royal Hospital for Women Foundation, said clinical excellence goes hand in hand with innovative technology, and the Foundation is proud to work with generous donors whose philanthropic support provides lifesaving equipment such as the 'Babyleo'.

"Baby Emmeline represents so many other newborns whose tricky start in life will benefit from generous donations to support the most advanced equipment and technology at The Royal," Ms O'Brien said.

-ENDS-

**'Draeger' if not using German umlauts.*

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