

# Private hospital takes off

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Patients have access to world-leading medical technology in their area.

Ormiston Hospital has hit the ground running after opening in April, impressing health professionals with their facilities.

"We're showing people around all the time and health professionals are blown away," says chief executive officer Clare McArthur.

The private hospital on Ormiston Rd has 11 overnight beds, set to rise to 32 as demand increases.

About 30 to 40 patients a week are being treated.

Three of the six operating theatres are running and have some of the best sterilisation technology in Australasia.

"The process we use is all about reducing the risk of cross-contamination," Ms McArthur says.

Some operations require higher degrees of sterilisation than others but each theatre has world-leading air filtration systems meeting new European standards.

The endoscopy equipment uses million pixel cameras.

"The view is phenomenal and the best available on the market," says clinical director John Edwards.

Biopsy equipment is also in the forefront of technology, leaving extremely smooth edges when cutting tissue, reducing trauma and bleeding.

Ms McArthur says good feedback has been received from all their patients and visitors.

The hospital is good for the community because there was a big market in the area which wasn't being catered for, says Mr Edwards.

There was a gap in private healthcare between Greenlane and Hamilton.

Mr Edwards says the biggest drawcard for patients is not having to travel to the city.

There are 32 fulltime equivalent hospital staff, set to rise when capacity increases.

The hospital has taken off more than anticipated with plans for a second building due to begin construction this year. It will expand on the specialities with the vision to create a medical hub.

"I'm proud of the whole thing, the developers allowed us a lot of input and we put a lot of thought into the flow and aesthetics of the building," Ms McArthur says.

Mr Edwards says the most pleasing thing for him is "it doesn't have the typical atmosphere of a hospital".

The hospital also has a radiology department, a day stay waiting area, pharmacy and cafe.