



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Walz Supports Australian First for Local Babies**

The Gladstone Region's newest arrivals will be welcomed into the world in Australia's first Giraffe Infant Resuscitator and Warmer, thanks to a generous \$30,000 donation from Walz Construction.

The Gladstone Mater Misericordiae Hospital Midwife, Helen Streeter-Smith, said the recently delivered mobile unit was essential for births as it combined valuable resuscitation equipment with the latest monitoring technology, a warming unit and overhead lights.

"This unit is extremely advanced on traditional warmers and it's the envy of hospitals across Australia. We're so lucky to have great businesses locally that want to contribute towards this life-saving equipment," Mrs Streeter-Smith said.

Walz Construction General Manager, Michael Walz, said the company regularly looked for ways to support the community that had ongoing value for people.

"Gladstone has a relatively young population and this sort of equipment plays a vital role at birth, so we felt it was one way we could help," Mr Walz said.

The Gladstone Mater previously only had one resuscitator unit that was not as advanced as the new one and provided limited support during multiple births.

"We really needed two units for circumstances where we are delivering twins or if two babies are being born at the same time."

"It's fully computerised and able to weigh the baby as well as perform newborn monitoring and keep the baby in a warm environment with the added support of resuscitation equipment if the baby is experiencing difficulty," Mrs Streeter-Smith said.

All midwives at the Mater received training recently from the supplier, GE Healthcare, in the operation of the Giraffe.

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For further information

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