

Springfield Scoop

Healthcare for the people of Greater Springfield

Issue 7 August 2025



Springfield City Group CEO Raynuha Sinnathamby and Chairman Maha Sinnathamby with Mater Board Chair Patrick Brady and Mater Group Chief Executive Julia Strickland-Bellamy on site for the 'topping out' celebration..

Simply tops

Mater welcomed Springfield City Group leaders to celebrate the site's, 'topping out' of Mater Hospital Springfield, a significant construction milestone for the exciting project.

A topping out ceremony, originally a Scandinavian tradition, involves a tree being hoisted to the tallest point of a construction site once the highest beams or slabs are in place.

Mater Hospital Springfield General Manager Suzanne Hawksley recognised the significance of the feat, as the public hospital edges closer to completion with first patients expected by early 2026.

"We're on track to offer expanded healthcare services to Brisbane's western corridor from early next year," Ms Hawksley said.

"We are tripling our healthcare capacity locally, bringing more essential services closer to home."

The frame for the nine-story facility is now waterproofed complete, and the fit-out is well underway on the lower floors.

Springfield City Group Chief Executive Officer Raynuha Sinnathamby attended the topping out ceremony and said the project would support growth in the region.

"We are a community driven by health, education and innovation, and are proud to partner with Mater in prioritising this for our region," Ms Sinnathamby said.

"It's exciting to know our residents will soon have access to emergency, maternity and paediatric care closer to home, without the need to travel to Ipswich or Brisbane for care."

Welcome

Welcome to the seventh edition of Springfield Scoop.

The team from John Holland Group has been making the most of our wintery blue skies, with construction of Mater Hospital Springfield progressing well – the lower floors are nearing completion, with inspections happening over the coming months.

The facility's facade is now being revealed, with scaffold removal beginning as the focus of works moves inside the building.

I was fortunate to welcome Springfield City Group Chairman Maha Sinnathamby and Chief Executive Officer Raynuha Sinnathamby to site recently as we celebrated its 'topping out', and look forward to sharing more project milestones with Springfield City Group and our wider community over the coming months.

We have also celebrated our very first local Diploma of Nursing graduates, with 34 hospital-trained enrolled nurses qualified at Mater Health Hub, Springfield attending their graduation at Brookwater Golf and Country Club.

Over the coming months, you will see the Mater team in the community, as we begin recruiting more than 1,000 staff and specialists at Mater Hospital Springfield.

Our new hospital needs workers with a range of skills, from cleaners and administration staff to doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

If you see me or a member of the Mater team in our community, ask us about the new services and job opportunities coming to Springfield soon.

Until next time,

Suzanne Hawksley

General Manager
Mater Private
Hospital Springfield



Mater Private Hospital Springfield staff got into the spirit of Mater Giving Day.

West Moreton locals tripled their impact

Greater Springfield residents dug deep for the recent Mater Giving Day, a 24-hour fundraising window where all donations to Mater Foundation are tripled.

A total of more than \$2 million was raised statewide to fund new medical equipment, technology and frontline staff.

Mater Private Hospital Springfield General Manager Suzanne Hawksley said equipment funded by community supporters made a major difference to healthcare in Brisbane's western corridor.

"Medical technology is constantly evolving and it's so important for our patients that we can bring that technology into our operating theatres and wards," Ms Hawksley said.

Recent technology funded by community support to Mater

Foundation and set to improve healthcare in Greater Springfield include:

- The Springfield Healthy Hearts living lab for global heart disease action
- Scalp cooling caps for chemotherapy patients
- A Sonosite, the latest technology allowing for improved accuracy for intravenous cannulation.

Funds raised from this year's event will be used to purchase equipment such as new patient beds to support reduced falls risks and improve patient comfort, and a Myosure console.

"The Myosure console will be used to support women suffering from abnormal bleeding symptoms caused by polyps or fibroids, by offering an effective treatment option that doesn't require major surgery," Ms Hawksley said.

Springfield's first homegrown nurses graduate

Mater Education's first cohort of Diploma of Nursing students graduated in Springfield debt-free, thanks to Mater Education's partnership with the State Government to deliver fee-free nursing courses.

Sixty-six new hospital-trained enrolled nurses have now qualified from Mater Health Hub, Springfield, ready to boost the healthcare frontline without the burden of tuition debt.

The graduates were some of the first to train at Mater's state-of-the-art Hub, each saving nearly \$25,000 in fees to kickstart their dream nursing careers.



Among the graduates was 43-year-old Samantha Adams who wouldn't have been able to afford to study without the fee-free initiative.

Now the former medical research worker plans to find employment as an Enrolled Nurse and continue her studies with a Bachelor of Nursing at university to qualify as a Registered Nurse.

If you're interested in finding out more about a healthcare career, visit: mater.li/DoN

Premier visits Mater Hospital Springfield

Queensland Premier David Crisafulli met Springfield nurses during a recent visit to Mater Hospital Springfield where he announced State Government support for the delivery of critical healthcare services in the region.

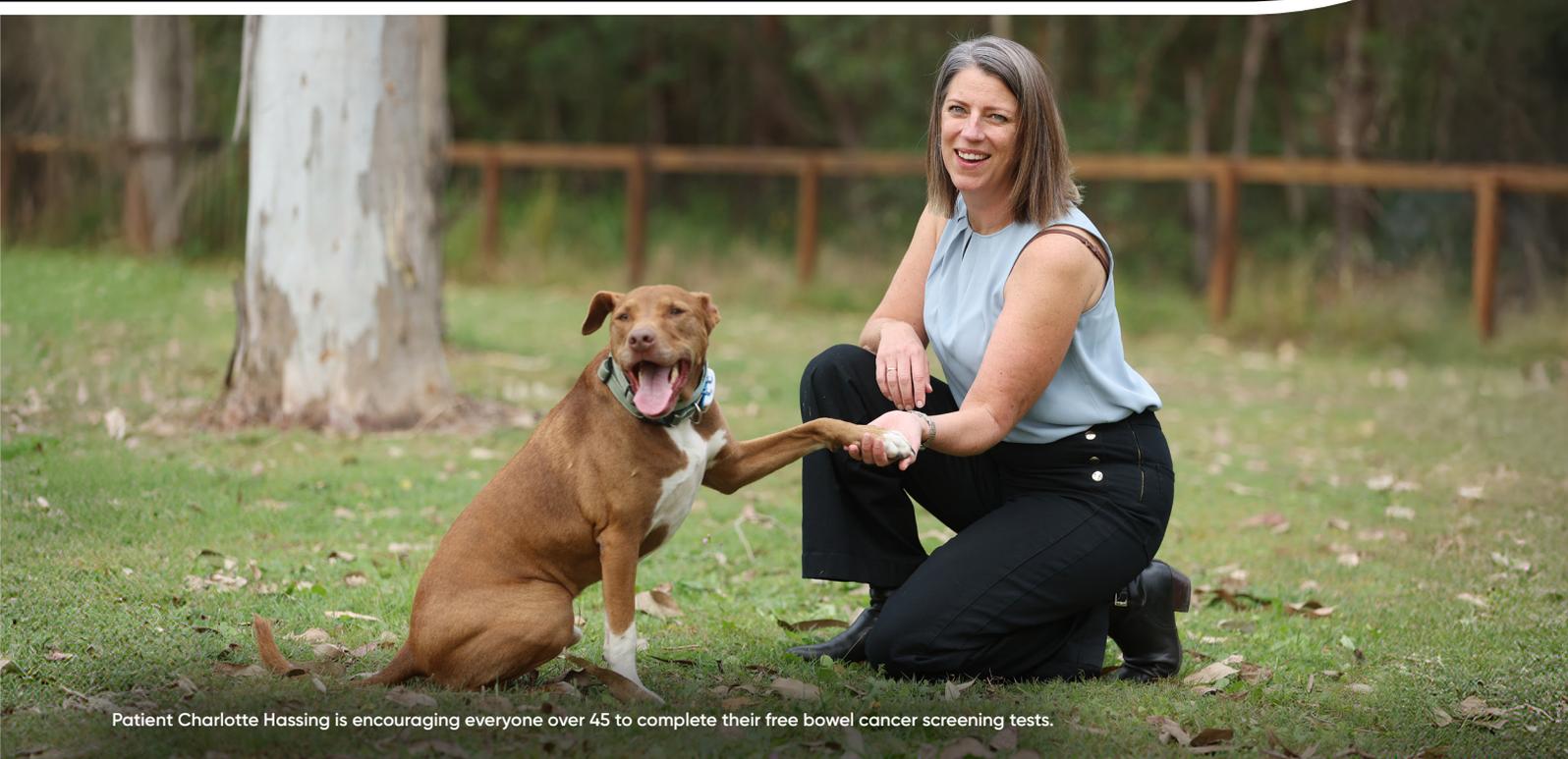
The Premier announced \$638 million in operational costs for the facility over the next four years.

Treasurer David Janetzki said the funding would equip Mater Hospital Springfield to meet Greater Springfield's current healthcare needs, while ensuring it's future-proofed to cater for growing demand.

"Our investment in health is about ensuring people across the State can access the care they need, when they need it, close to home," the Treasurer said.

Mater Hospital Springfield General Manager Suzanne Hawksley said the announcement came at an exciting time for the facility.

"Mater Hospital Springfield's Emergency Department, outpatient lounge, and foyer are all approaching final fit-out, and it was fantastic to update the Premier on progress to date," Ms Hawksley said.



Patient Charlotte Hassing is encouraging everyone over 45 to complete their free bowel cancer screening tests.

Springfield doctor urges early screening

Springfield Gastroenterologist Dr Sylvia Vigh is urging Greater Springfield residents to complete their bowel cancer screening tests, with a rising trend of people under 50 being diagnosed with the disease.

More than six million people aged over 45 are sent free bowel cancer screening tests each year in Australia, but a report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveals that more than half fail to return their testing kit samples.

Dr Vigh said there is no doubt the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program saves lives.

"By the time people have bowel cancer symptoms like blood in their stool, stomach pain, fatigue,

weight loss or changes in their bowel movements, it normally means the cancer has progressed," Dr Vigh said.

"Around 90 percent of stage one bowel cancers can be successfully treated if found early, so it's really important for people to do these tests and if they are positive, they should get a colonoscopy, as soon as possible."

Charlotte Hassing, 48, from New Beith said her only noticeable symptom was 'fatigue'.

"The test came back positive, showing there was blood in my stool that wasn't visible to the naked eye. It surprised me, but I still didn't think anything major was wrong," she said.

"I am now receiving immunotherapy treatment every three weeks until the end of the year, and I may also need surgery to remove about 20 centimetres of my bowel".

Australia has the highest rate of bowel cancer in the world in people under 50, which now account for around one in nine cases being diagnosed.

"Don't wait, do the test and opt in as soon as you can, because it could save your life," said Ms Hassing.

Winter comfort food

Hearty roast pumpkin soup

Serves: 4

Preparation:
10 minutes

Cooking:
60 minutes

Ingredients:

1 medium-sized pumpkin
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2-4 garlic cloves
(depending on your preference)
3 cups of stock
(chicken or vegetable)
or bone broth
1 brown onion
½ cup coconut milk
Sourdough bread

Optional depending on preferences:

1 red capsicum
1 chilli, finely diced
Shaved parmesan

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C.
2. Roughly chop pumpkin, onion and capsicum – place the pumpkin and garlic cloves in a baking dish, drizzled with olive oil and flaked salt, and bake for 20 minutes, before adding the capsicum and chilli for a further 20 minutes.
3. When the vegetables have five minutes left in the oven, bring a pot to medium heat, adding butter, and fry off onion until it begins to caramelize.
4. Once onion is caramelised, add roasted vegetables and stock or broth. Bring to a boil and then simmer, gently pressing the vegetables with a wooden spoon to begin breaking them apart.
5. Let the mixture cool a little, and then add to a food processor and blend to your desired consistency. Add your choice of herbs, spices, salt and pepper to taste.
6. If making croutons, break sourdough into bite-sized chunks. Toss in a bowl with flaked salt, rosemary and a dash of oil. Bake in the oven until golden brown.

Serving suggestion:

Lightly grill slices of sourdough with shaved parmesan on top until parmesan begins to melt and crisp up on the bread. For added protein, fry diced bacon and either use as a topping or mix through after your soup is blended.

We have been treated to a chilly winter in 2025 – so it is important to nourish our body with food that keeps us warm and content, while also being packed full of vitamins and nutrients to keep our immune system strong during the flu season.

Pumpkins are bursting with fibre and antioxidants, including beta-carotene – supporting vision and skin health.

Turning your soup from a side into a meal by adding some carbohydrate-rich and gut-healthy sourdough croutons or toast is good for your gut, helping to improve digestion.

If you're looking to develop healthier meal plans, get in contact with Mater Health Hub, Springfield's Dietitian, Beccy Levey, by scanning here:



Recruiter starts the search for first hospital roles

Hayley Bracken is on the hunt for talent.

The Mater Talent Acquisition Specialist will play a key role in the recruitment of more than 150 doctors needed to provide services at the new Mater Hospital Springfield.

Hayley's appointment follows the launch of advertisements for Senior Medical Officer roles with applications closing on 31 August.

"I've been really fortunate to work at Mater for more than five years now, and am excited to now be joining the team delivering a new era of healthcare for Greater Springfield," Ms Bracken said.

"While my current role will focus on the recruitment of specialists from obstetrics and orthopaedics to emergency medicine and paediatrics, I'm excited to be part of a team looking for all 1,000 staff across clinical and non-clinical areas at our new hospital.

"Hospitals are communities in their own right, requiring everything from engineers and chefs to administrative team members, IT experts, nurses, midwives, cleaners and more."

Additional senior clinical staff roles will be advertised in the coming months, before other positions towards the end of 2025.

"While only certain roles are accepting applications now, you can be the first to know about additional roles launching by submitting an expression of interest."



Scan here to meet Hayley



Scan to view the current roles accepting applications



Scan to submit an expression of interest to learn about future roles