



*****Media release*****

New toys and equipment for Austin Hospital's Paediatrics ward

Children in Austin Hospital's Paediatrics ward will soon be enjoying new recreational and educational equipment, thanks to a \$4,700 donation last week from the staff at Myer Doncaster.

"This generous donation will make a big difference for the children," said Cameron Goodyear, Director of Medical and Emergency CSU.

"When children are sick, toys are a major comfort to them, and we want to ensure their stay at Austin Hospital is as comfortable as possible."

Part of the donation will help revamp the current toy room with toys such as a table train set, building blocks, games, DVDs and a variety of colourful toys.

"Toys like musical activity centres can be used as diversion therapy for some medical procedures," said Jenny Spiller, Nurse Unit Manager of Ward 2 West, the Paediatrics ward. "Board games are great for socialization and education and will add to what we can offer in our ward's school room."

Myer Doncaster staff visited the ward to present their donation cheque and tour the ward.

Myer staff wanted to help the ward's young patients, particularly those who stay at the hospital for extended periods of time.

Stephanie Crawford, Community Fund Officer at Myer Doncaster, said that staff at the store were 'rapt' with the amount of money they had raised and that they had already begun fundraising for next year.

"We have challenged ourselves to double the amount we raised this year so we can donate even more money next year," said Tareq Alhmoud, Service Support Manager.

Assistant Store Manager, Carol Moroney said it was a good feeling to have within the store. "We're excited to be doing something for children and Austin Hospital, which we all have a great love for."