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*Above:* A new Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) service was welcomed by staff, families and patients at Caboolture Hospital. Young patients Elouise and Jackson Bates were among of the first to receive minor surgery for ear, nose or throat conditions. Pictured here with registered nurse Erin Mampara and mum Melissa Baker.



# Children's ENT service cuts travel time for families

For Ningi mum Melissa Baker, the addition of a new Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) service at Caboolture Hospital is very welcome.

The new service means that her children, Elouise and Jackson Bates, did not have travel the distance to hospitals in the city for minor surgery for ear, nose or throat conditions.

Melissa said that both her children had grommets inserted, and Jackson had his adenoids checked at Caboolture Hospital.

"Children requiring minor surgery, such as the adenoid removal and perforated ear drum repairs can now be treated at the clinic at the hospital," Dr Le Ray said.

"We have been working very closely with specialist staff from Lady Cilento Children's Hospital to identify local children on the wait list whose conditions can be treated here.

**126** Outpatients for 2014-2015 { **93 new** } { **33 review** }

**45** ear, nose and throat operations were carried out since inception.



"I am very relieved that I didn't have to travel to the city as it can turn into a very expensive day with meals and parking," she said.

"It is really good to have this surgery delivered locally. A lot of families are going to benefit from having their surgery here."

Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals Executive Director Dr Lance Le Ray said the introduction of the ENT service was an exciting milestone for the local community.

"A highly respected and experienced surgeon Dr Andrew Chang, from Lady Cilento, is performing the procedures and conducting outpatient clinics at the hospital."

The introduction of the service at Caboolture follows the enhancement of children's services and the opening of the only specialist children's audiology service in north Brisbane.

The new service is part of a broader Metro North Hospital and Health Service strategy to provide better access to safe and family-centred health services where they are needed in the community.