K-Block Level 3 East

The Department of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine is on K3E.

Over 2 000 hyperbaric oxygen treatments will be provided each year.

Hyperbaric oxygen treatment is a treatment for decompression illness and is essential for Tasmania's commercial and recreational diving industries.

It is also used to treat conditions that affect many Tasmanians every year, eg tissue injury from radiation treatment for cancer, diabetic wounds and serious infections such as gangrene.

The department has a triple-lock, multi-place chamber with capacity to treat 10 patients with hyperbaric oxygen at the same time. It has three rooms including a private change area and toilet.

The department also has two monoplace chambers. These chambers are typically used for patients unable to sit or who cannot tolerate the traditional method of

oxygen delivered via a large hood. A patient may need treatment daily for several weeks. The length of each treatment can vary from one and a half hours to several hours. The chambers are fitted with televisions for patient entertainment.

The multiplace chamber has been fitted with dual-capability in two compartments to pressurise (hyperbaric) and depressurise (hypobaric).

Hypobaric chambers are used for aerospace, or altitude research and training to simulate the effects of high altitude on the body, especially hypoxia (low oxygen) and hypobaric (low ambient air pressure).

The dual-capability chamber will create a world-class research facility unique in the southern hemisphere and one of just a few globally.

Hypobaric capability has potential application to high altitude, space and extreme medicine research and testing; and airline and defence training.

The Tasmanian Government provided $11 million in funding for the K-Block hyperbaric facility, which includes the multi-chamber, monoplace chambers and associated construction works.

The multiplace chamber was made by Australian company Fink Engineering. The multiplace chamber is 66 tonne and 14 metres long.

For more information go to
www.rhhredevelopment.tas.gov.au