

K-Block Level 7 – K7E/K7W

K7 accommodates Maternity and Women's Surgical on K7W and Pregnancy Assessment and Birthing on K7E.



K7W Maternity and Women's Surgical

K7W is made up of two units: Maternity and Women's Surgery.

Maternity provides inpatient beds for antenatal and postnatal patients.

The 20-bed capacity unit has:

- eight, two-bed capacity rooms
- one single bed negative pressure isolation room
- three single bedrooms including one with disability design ensuite and
- dedicated and better equipped parent room as a space to meet and relax with family and visitors.

Women's surgery provides inpatient beds for women who have had gynaecological surgery.

Women's surgery is an 11-bed capacity unit with:

- three single rooms including one with disability design ensuite
- three, two-bed rooms
- one single bariatric room
- one single negative pressure isolation room.

Level 7 also includes meeting rooms, reception, offices, staff areas and public amenity.

K7E Birthing and Pregnancy Assessment

K7E Birthing and Pregnancy Assessment is an 18-bed unit including triage and assessment areas. It provides safe antenatal care, delivery and immediate postnatal care of mothers and their newborn babies.

The modern birthing areas minimise the look and feel of a hospital with features to promote a relaxing environment and help women feel safe and comfortable in labour and birth.

The inclusion of birthing baths for the first time at the RHH will allow most women to use water immersion during labour. The option to birth in water will be available following discussion with their care provider.

Adjacent to the birthing rooms are areas for assessment and observation.

Women 13 weeks pregnant or more, and who have a significant pregnancy related-concern, can go directly to the maternity unit for assessment to ensure timely, appropriate and woman-centred care.

In the postnatal period women may continue to contact the maternity service for concerns about the birth for up to six weeks.

On this ward there is:

- four delivery rooms - to support care for women with high risk or complex pregnancies
- two isolation delivery rooms - to support clinical teams in safely managing women with infections eg influenza
- seven birthing rooms – each with a birth bath and an inbuilt day bed for a support person. The aspect of each room maximises natural light and acoustic privacy with additional sound proofing
- an additional birthing room - a family room providing a co-located lounge and kitchenette and outside waiting area
- two bed high-dependency room - to manage women who require close observation or a high level of clinical care
- assessment room
- pregnancy assessment area - a triage area with three consultation bays
- patient lounge - relaxed seating area with access to a vending machine and public toilet with baby changing facilities.

Wards also include offices, meeting rooms, storage, public and staff amenities.



The Queen Alexandra Women's Services

K7 has been named the Queen Alexandra Women's Services in honour of women who established and have continued to support Hobart's dedicated maternity service for more than a century.

The Ladies Aid Association was established in 1902 to raise funds to build Hobart's first women's hospital. Their inaugural event was a Ball to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII and Alexandra of Denmark as King and Queen of the United Kingdom.

The original Queen Alexandra Hospital (or the 'Alex' as it was known) was built in Hampden Road, Battery Point in 1905 and the Queen Alexandra Auxiliary (QAA) was formed.



"Forward-thinking women established the auxiliary, stepping outside the expected role of a woman as a housewife in Hobart's establishment at the time," said Elizabeth Clark, a member for 25 years.

"They were the first to train midwifery students because up to that point there was no specific training."

The students paid 12 guineas to participate in the training over a 12-month period and were issued with a Certificate of Obstetrical Nursing.

Over the decades, the QAA has continued to assist mothers and babies and to support the Alex.

"We made toiletry packs for young mothers and their babies," Elizabeth said.

"We would recognise Christmas day babies, each getting a present from the auxiliary."

"The committee purchased emergency trolleys, decorated rooms and provided other specific equipment as requested by staff," committee member Robyn Beltz said.

"The auxiliary established a room where fathers from the country could stay when their wives were in hospital for an extended stay," Elizabeth said.

The QAA has decided to wind down after more than 100 years.

"The current committee recognised the changing of times and the current needs of hospitals and found that it was becoming harder to get volunteer members for fundraising," Robyn said.

As a legacy to the voluntary contribution of the Auxiliary, they have prepared a professional history of the journey of the QAA from 1902 until 2019.

The level 7 foyer hosts two walls of information panels showcasing both the history of birthing in Tasmania and recognising the contribution of the QAA.