

Media Release

Issued: 17 August 2022

Opening of Waitakere Hospital's Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) response to Stuff

The newly upgraded and expanded Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) at Waitakere Hospital opened to the public this morning, and all babies and parents who were previously being cared for in the neighbouring Rangatira Ward have been transferred to the new unit.

To welcome the babies, bassinets in the unit have been lined with colourful quilts which can be taken home at the end of each baby's stay. These quilts were lovingly made by the generous women of Waitakere Hospital Auxiliary, with some help from North Shore Hospital Auxiliary, who donated over 18 baby quilts and 8 large quilts for the parent beds to help create a friendly environment.

Wereta Fernandez-Tukiwaho was born 10 weeks premature on the 21st of July, and spent the first part of his life at Auckland City Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Now 33 weeks old, Baby Wereta has been transferred to Waitakere Hospital to continue receiving care from the wonderful SCBU staff before he is ready to go home.



*Maria Fernandez and Wereta Fernandez-Tukiwaho
with his donated Mickey Mouse quilt.*

Proud new mum, Maria Fernandez, was excited to move into the new unit to be with her son today. The Henderson resident said: "It's like a hotel; it's wonderful."

We are pleased a recent upgrade to the switchboard was successfully carried out at the hospital and are delighted the facility can now be used by the babies and mothers in our care. We thank the families for their patience and understanding as this work was carried out and look forward to continuing to provide them with the highest-possible standard of care.

The new SCBU was partly funded by \$5 million of community donations through Well Foundation – Te Whatu Ora – Waitematā’s official charity. We sincerely thank all those who have supported this development so generously; its establishment will make a significant difference to our community and the most-vulnerable babies in our care for many years to come.

ENDS

Media contact:

Media Line: 09 487 1276
