

Cabrini is autism-aware

Safer Care Victoria Forum 2019

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The perceived hospital experience for children with ASD

The 'busyness' of the hospital environment can be disrupting and upsetting for children, in particular those with ASD, in addition to

- disruption of the child's routine
- lengthy waiting times
- dealing with unfamiliar people
- strange surroundings, tastes and smells



Accommodating all children

*'If you've met one person on the autism spectrum,
you've met one person on the spectrum'*



Research study

Aim:

Identify measures which could be introduced into Cabrini to provide an autism-aware environment for children and their families.

With thanks to the Cabrini foundation and generous donor funding



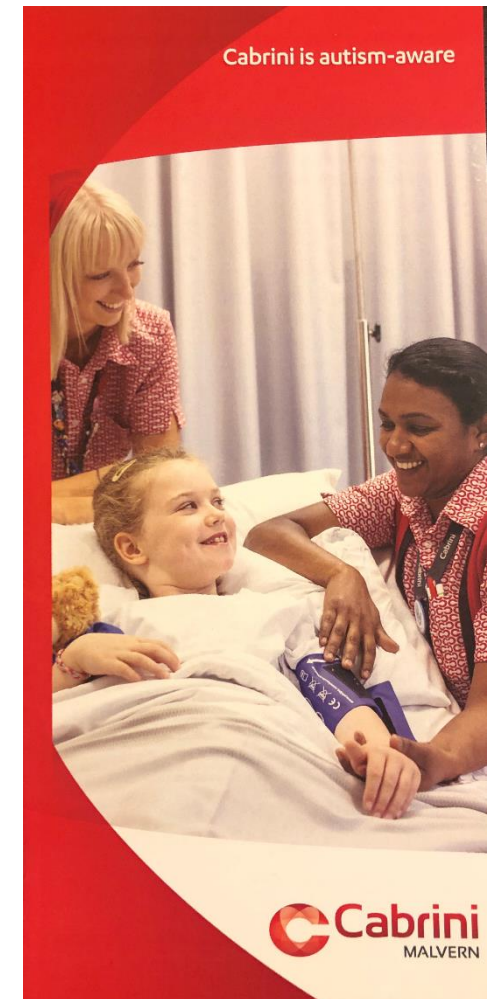
Study recommendations

- Enhancing communication with patients, families and staff
- Early identification of ASD in children
- Minimising anxiety and sensory triggers in children
- Training and education of staff in relation to ASD



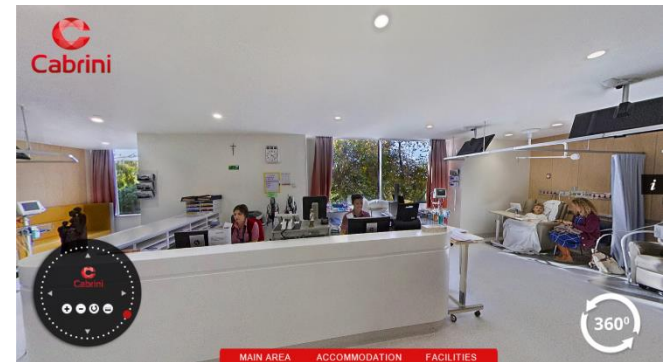
Cabrini autism-aware initiatives

- Paediatric pre-admission clinic
- Individually tailored care plans
- **Virtual ward tour**
- Communication cloud and bedside communication boards
- **Sensory toolboxes**
- **Daily quiet time**
- Staff education
- Considerations to hospital policies and procedures



Virtual tour

- The virtual tour is a 360° view of our paediatric ward
- Designed to give children and their families a chance to ‘walk-through’ prior to coming in for a scheduled hospital stay



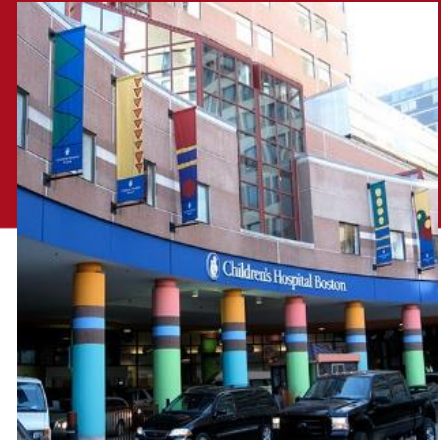
Daily quiet time

- Quiet time in the paediatric ward occurs between **1pm and 3pm daily**
- This time benefits both patients, families and staff



International benchmarking

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Boston Children's Hospital



Aim:

- Determine benchmarking criteria for 'autism-friendly' paediatric settings
- Tour of facilities for both in-patient and out-patient services
- Discuss the inter-professional collaboration of the integrated autism team



Our vision for the future

CHAMP

Cabrini Health ASD multi-disciplinary platform

CHAMP is a proposed, hospital-wide, platform for families of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), consisting of three main pillars:



Questions

