



Modbury &amp; Lyell McEwin hospitals

# Stitched and hitched

A couple of surgeons symbolise the collaboration between two hospitals in Adelaide's north

WORDS BEN CAMERON AND JAMES GRATTON



**T**hey bonded over ankle fractures and fused their relationship tight through their drive to make a difference. Meet College Park couple Bev Fosh and Adrian Bauze.

The high-flying consultant surgeons, who married in 2004, met 16 years ago as humble trainees at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where Ms Fosh's intimate knowledge of feet stole her future husband's heart. "I wooed him with my vast knowledge of ankle fractures," she laughs.

Today, Ms Fosh specialises in breast cancer at Modbury Hospital while Mr Bauze, a master of more than 5000 hip and knee procedures, is based at Lyell McEwin.

The pair symbolises the connection between the two hospitals in Adelaide's north/northeast and the boost they received through the State Government's Transforming Health reform.

Modbury rolled out a "one-stop breast cancer service", while "The Lyell Mac" is expanding its orthopedics.

Being married to a fellow surgeon has its advantages. Mr Bauze says the pair supported each other through the pressures and long hours of intense training and, to this day, call on one another.

"It helps to have somebody who understands what you're going through," the former match-day doctor at Norwood Football Club says. "There's not too many surgical couples out there.

"(Being a surgeon) is stressful, but it's also very rewarding."

There have been plenty of sacrifices too. Parents to two children – Ella, 12, and Henry, 9, Ms Fosh says she wasn't always available to play mum.

"We had children during my (general surgeon) training," she says. "It was all fairly

intense. Training is 13 days on and then one day off and that day you'd study.

"I didn't see an awful lot of (the kids) in the first few years (of training)."

The surgeon duo agrees changing lives is at the centre of what they do. Ms Fosh says she bonds with her patients as she often sees them regularly for the rest of their lives. "Not many of my patients forget they've had breast cancer, so you've always made a massive difference in their life," she says.

"Both (jobs) are rewarding in their own different way," Mr Bauze says. "It's always about trying to do the best job every time."

Work on a \$52.5 million upgrade of the Lyell McEwin Hospital will start in the middle of next year after the State Government announced last June it would build a new emergency department at the Elizabeth Vale hospital.

The number of assessment cubicles for adults and children would double, while resuscitation bays would also increase. A dedicated waiting area for children and parents will also be constructed in the emergency department.

The Modbury Hospital also receives a cash boost of \$9.2 million. It will be spent building an eight-bed emergency extended care unit next to the hospital's emergency department, with construction set to begin in 2018.

The unit – expected to create 30 full-time equivalent jobs – will allow dedicated clinicians to continue assessing patients who have been to the emergency department but require extra care.

It will mean a reduction in wait times at the ED and fewer hospital transfers.

Health Minister Jack Snelling said the unit would give residents "access to even better facilities" and provide them with extra emergency care services "on their doorstep".

**MEETING A MATCH: Bev Fosh and Adrian Bauze at their College Park home (top) and the entrance of the Lyell McEwin Hospital. PICTURES: Calum Robertson/Keryn Stevens**