



the women's
the royal women's hospital

Media Release

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NHMRC grant for neonatal research at the Women's

A Royal Women's Hospital researcher has received almost \$300,000 to continue her research on helping premature babies in the first minutes of life.

Jennifer Dawson, who has trained and worked as a nurse for over 20 years, obtained her PhD in neonatal research this year.

Her thesis was titled: Defining the Reference Range for Oxygen Saturation for Infants After Birth. Her work has provided guidelines which will be used worldwide when administering oxygen to newborns after birth.

Now Dr Dawson has received a \$290,000 grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to fund another four years research into improving the care of prematurely born babies.

"In neonatal settings, a small soft sensor is wrapped around the baby's hand attached to a pulse oximeter that allows the clinical team caring for the baby in the birthing room to be able to monitor the baby's blood oxygen and heart rate," she said.

"It is important that babies receive the right amount of oxygen, especially if the baby is born prematurely."

In her thesis Dr Dawson investigated oxygen saturation and heart rate measurements in the first minutes after birth. Her findings are unique because of the large number of infants studied and the novel method of illustrating these data in the form of reference charts.

These charts, which were developed for the thesis, now enable clinicians to better manage infants in the delivery room.

Her grant is part of a \$53 million NHMRC package announced yesterday.

For more information please call:

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