



**ST VINCENT'S
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**
EAST MELBOURNE
A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Kids Ward

159 Grey Street East Melbourne Vic 3002

Thank you for choosing St Vincent's Private Kids!

We have 22 paediatric hospital beds. We specialise in orthopaedics (bones, joints and soft tissue), ear, nose and throat surgery, urology, plastics and general surgery for infants, children and adolescents.

At St Vincent's Private Hospital, our paediatric staff are knowledgeable, experienced and happy to talk to you about your child's hospital journey.

We strive to make your stay as pleasant and comfortable as possible, and we value your input.

Please let us know your preferences and needs about your child's care, including any cultural considerations, and what matters to you.

No-one knows your child better than you, so we look forward to working together to ensure your child has a positive hospital experience.

**- Carrie Thomas (Nurse Unit Manager)
and the Kids Ward Team.**



Preparing your child for Hospital

We know that a hospital visit can be a stressful time for all families, and we encourage you to ask as many questions as you need to.

It is important to speak to your child about what is going to happen in hospital. By preparing your child for their visit you can help make it a better experience for them and your family. It's best to tell them the truth about why they're coming to hospital.

Telling your child a few days prior to their admission gives them time to ask questions and to increase their understanding of what's going to happen.

If you have a young child or infant, use simple language that doesn't make them fearful. Remind your child that the nurses are going to look after them and you will be with them through the whole process.

The following videos might be helpful tools to watch with your child to prepare them for surgery.

[My Visit - St Vincent's Private](#)



[Rees Bear has an Anaesthetic](#)



Kids Ward facilities

We have private rooms for patients and select double rooms for siblings having surgery at the same time.

Our team work hard to decorate our ward all year round! Check out our previous themes below!

[St Vincent's Kids - Youtube](#)



There is a pantry with tea/coffee/ water facilities, microwave and a small fridge/ freezer.



Our **Kids Zone** is a play corridor with toys for all ages. It also has TV, PlayStation, colouring in and ride on cars.

We also have sensory/fidget toys available, if required.

Meals are provided through the Room Service and are included for patients and the overnight parent.

We cater for allergies and all dietary requirements.



The Surgical Journey

Here at St Vincent's Private Kids Ward, we understand that bringing your child to hospital may feel stressful or overwhelming. To help you prepare, below is an outline of the surgical process. Please note, some aspects may differ slightly depending on your surgeon and your child's procedure.

1.



WELCOME AND CLERICAL ADMISSION

Please arrive to hospital at the admission time provided by your surgeon's rooms. Our customer service team will welcome you at the front reception, check your child's details and instruct you on how to get to the Kids Ward.

2.



NURSING ADMISSION

On the Kids Ward, our nursing staff will admit your child and check their details, vital signs and medical history. After this, your child can explore the toy zone while they wait. We understand waiting for your child to be called for surgery may be challenging and we will do our best to make this as easy as possible, however, the nurses do not have control over theatre wait times or the order of theatre lists.

3.



PRE-OP HOLDING BAY

When it is time to go to the operating theatre, one parent/carer can accompany your child to Holding Bay. This is the last stop before going through to the operating theatre. Your surgeon, anaesthetist and anaesthetic nurse will go over the procedure and consent.

All patients must have a legal guardian attend the pre-op holding bay with them to complete consent.

4.



OPERATING ROOM

The surgical team will take you and your child into the operating room for them to go to sleep. Some parents may find it emotional watching their child go under anaesthetic, so be prepared to feel a bit overwhelmed. The surgical team will be there to support you and your child through this process. As soon as your child is asleep, a staff member will send you back to the Kids Ward.

5.



RECOVERY ROOM

Our trained recovery team will look after your child as they awake from anaesthetic and keep them as comfortable as possible. The elected guardian will be contacted so they can re-join their child.

6.



POST-OP

On the Kids Ward, our nurses will continue to monitor and provide required medication for your child.

For both day procedures and overnight patients, the nurse will discuss the post-operative care instructions and any medication that will be required at home. Our pharmacy will prepare these medications for you to collect on your way out.

All patients must be discharged into the care of a legal guardian only.

Access and inclusion

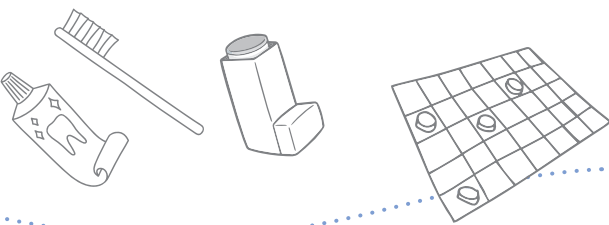
Our team is ready to support your family. Please discuss your concerns with us at any time and together we will work out a plan that suits you best. Often a call to the ward prior to admission is helpful for developing strategies which will accommodate possible barriers to care and help reduce concerns. Contact the Kids ward on 9928 6855.

Neuro-affirming care

St Vincent's Kids proudly provides neuro-affirming care. We are happy to work with families ahead of your admission to prepare an individualised plan which accommodates your special needs. Complete our [Neurodivergent Care Plan](#) and email to pre.clinic@svha.org.au to commence the planning process.

What to bring to Hospital

- Any regular medications, including asthma puffers and spacers, and EpiPens
- A spare change of clothes
- A favourite toy, blanket, teddy or other comfort items
- An activity/book/puzzle/game
- Nappy bag (if required)
- An overnight bag including toiletries (if required)

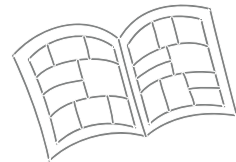


We supply all linen and meals for the patient, and if staying overnight, the carer also.

We do not supply nappies, pull ups, wipes, formula or bottles so please make sure you bring your own.

If your child is a particularly fussy or restrictive eater, bringing some familiar snacks can be helpful for them.

If your child has additional sensory processing needs, consider bringing headphones, fidget toys, or items that help them self-regulate.



Children 13 years and over are required to wear a hospital gown for surgery. Younger children wear comfy, loose clothes or pyjamas. Keep this in mind when packing for hospital.

Visiting hours

We highly recommend visiting the St Vincent’s Private website and confirming visitor hours **prior to admission**.

Two parents/carers are permitted to be on the ward with your child outside visiting hours.

Siblings are included as visitors and are recommended to visit during the visiting hours.

If this is not possible, they will need to be supervised by an additional parent/carer as they are not permitted into theatre or recovery. The nursing staff are unable to supervise siblings during these times.

[Please refer to the website for the most up to date information.](#)



Permitted carers

All patients must have a legal guardian accompany them for the pre-op process, to ensure consent has been given.

One guardian is welcome to be present in the operating theatre as your child goes to sleep, and one to attend recovery.

We also cater for one guardian to stay overnight with a fold-out bed by the child’s bedside.

Patients under 16 years are required to have a guardian present for the duration of their stay, including overnight.

Patients aged 16–17 years can choose to stay overnight by themselves, although a guardian is welcome to stay.

See you soon!

We look forward to seeing you soon at St Vincent’s Private Kids!

If you have any questions regarding your admission time, or fasting time, please contact your surgeon’s room.

For any other enquiries, please feel free to call ward direct on 03 9928 6855

How to get here

St Vincent’s Private, East Melbourne is located at:
**159 Grey Street
East Melbourne Vic 3002**

We have a dedicated hospital carpark located at **102 Grey Street**

Please ensure you park in the St Vincent’s carpark (not Epworth) and we can provide a discount voucher for this.

Better and fairer care.
Always.

