

### Grant recipient

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Neonatal service

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### Grant details

GRANT TYPE	Dame Malvina Major Travelling Fellowship	FUNDING ROUND	2016 MAM
GRANT REFERENCE		GRANT AMOUNT	\$3,000

## Final report

### 1. Scientific Assessing Committee report

**Dame Malvina Major Travelling Grant 2017 Report by Debbie O'Donoghue neonatal nurse manager December 2017** In October this year following the generous support awarded to me for the Dame Malvina Major Child health travel grant I began my travels to Europe touring neonatal services within the United Kingdom and Denmark. The purpose of these visits was to spend time with staff in the Neonatal services (NICU's) where they already have proven experience and success in providing an environment that minimises the separation of a mother and her premature baby and an approach to care which is very inclusive of the family during along stay in hospital for their premature or unwell baby, all things we have yet to explore further or enhance here in the Christchurch NICU. The first stop on my travels was to spend time within NICU's in Denmark. Denmark and all the Scandinavian countries lead the way in the research, practicalities of and integration of family centred care in the NICU. Two of the units I visited were in the city of Copenhagen the other two in Southern Denmark. What was very noticeable is the wider community and government support for parents including fathers over this time, there were however still many practical opportunities and examples of ways of working that we could consider here in our unit to include fathers and siblings more and training and education for staff on how to nurture this approach to care.

The next stop was 2 units in the South West of England, Exeter and Plymouth whom both have established Transitional care facilities which we are wishing to consider establishing in Christchurch currently there are no transitional care facilities in New Zealand. Transitional care is a model of care where a mother and baby are nursed together in a purpose built area these being babies whocurrently would need to be separated from their mother to be admitted in the NICU. The ideas and experience is took from those days will help shape what it should look like for us here in Christchurch going forward into 2018.

My final stop was being able to spend time with key international nurse and medical researchers involved in the care of the neonatal family at a collaborative Workshop in Venice which will be an ongoing working group. Travelling to Europe has given me insight into how we can make some small and some larger changes to our facility and practice to support families on a stressful neonatal journey. What was a key message throughout all of my interactions and visits is that the family should be centre to the care of their baby and the importance of minimising separation for long term positive outcomes. These photos show where neonatal care can advance from to now with the mother and baby in the centre of a wealth of technology courtesy of Exeter neonatal unit.

### 2. Photographs

*View an attachment by double clicking the icon to the left of the file name. Icons are not displayed and attachments are not accessible when this PDF is viewed in a web browser; you must open it in [PDF reader software](#).*



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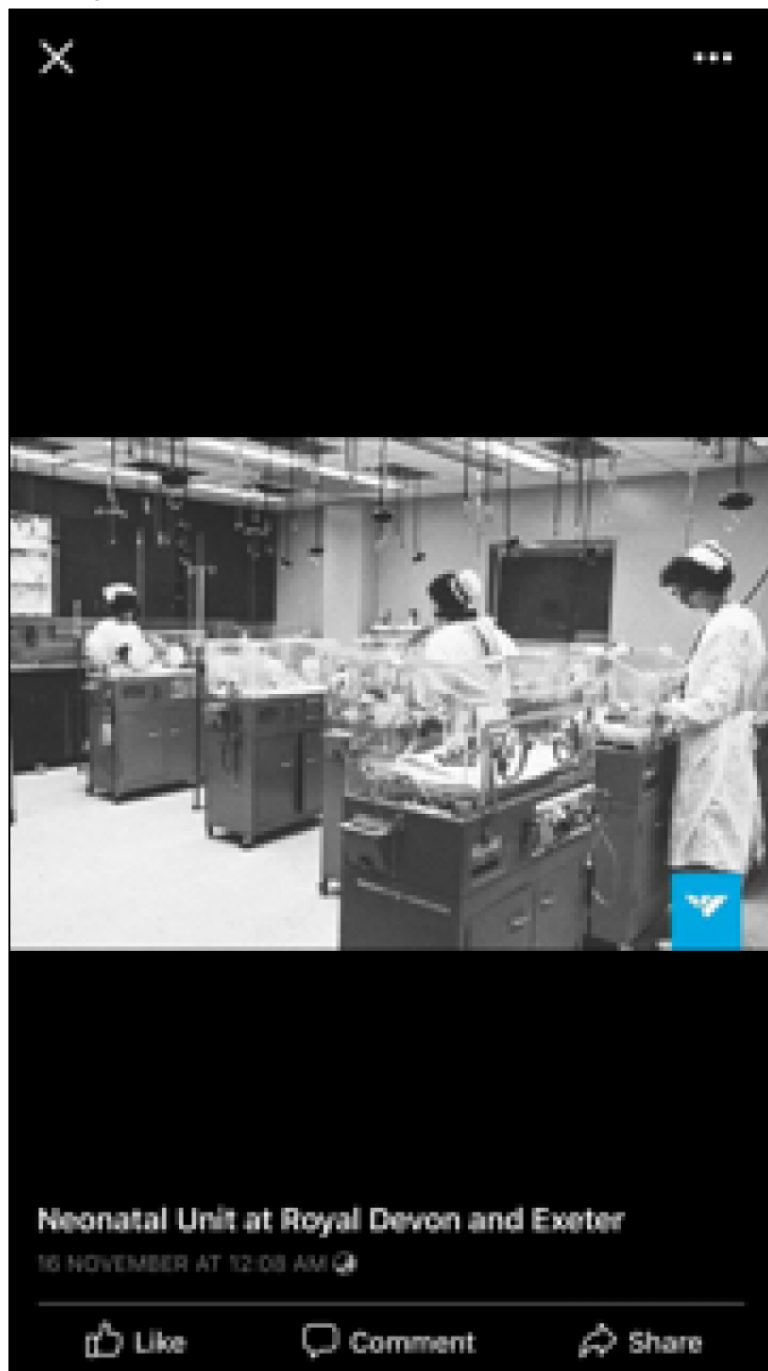


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### 3. Feedback