



Media Statement

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MEDIA RELEASE

ICU “father” honoured at RPH

When Dr Geoffrey Clarke started his medical training, the concept of providing “intensive care” for patients was not taught.

Dr Clarke started working in medicine at a time when the benefit of “intensive care” of critically ill patients was beginning to be appreciated.

His work to further the concept of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) has led to him being known in local medical circles as “the father of Intensive Care in Western Australia”, and his efforts are being recognised today with the official naming of a seminar room at Royal Perth Hospital.

The Dr Geoffrey Malcolm Clarke Seminar room will feature a portrait of Dr Clarke, and will ensure that ICU staff have a venue and an opportunity to be always improving their skills – something that Dr Clarke is passionate about.

Dr Clarke was the Head of Intensive Care Department at Royal Perth Hospital from 1970 until 2003 and was dedicated to its growth and development for more than three decades.

Now retired from Royal Perth Hospital, Dr Clarke is to have the ICU seminar room named after him as recognition of the contributions he made to Intensive Care.

Dr Geoffrey Malcolm Clarke was born in Perth and graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1964 with several undergraduate awards.

Dr Clarke undertook specialist training in Anaesthesia, including a period as a Research Fellow in the United Kingdom attaining the Diploma of Anaesthetics in 1966 and the Fellowship of the Faculty of Anaesthetists, Royal College of Surgeons in 1968.

He was appointed to the position of Head of Department in Intensive Care in 1970 at the age of 29.

Dr Clarke is known and respected as an excellent clinician and high standards of care have been the centrepiece of his career – he is known for caring for his staff, as well as his patients.

He is not only a leader in his specialty in Perth, but in a much wider circle through his activities in national bodies including his Presidency of the Australian New Zealand Intensive Care Service.

He is a sought after teacher and has been invited to lecture all around the world.

Dr Clarke's other achievements include the inaugural Royal Perth Hospital Outstanding Service Award in 1998 and recognition from the Queen - an Order of Australia Medal awarded in 1998 for services to patient care, teaching and training in intensive care.

The naming of the seminar room is a small way of permanently acknowledging his contribution to a hospital which he was dedicated from his beginning as a junior doctor until his retirement in 2003.