

# Thyroid surgery without scarring

**Patients undergoing thyroid surgery at St John of God Subiaco Hospital can now avoid scarring on the neck, thanks to a new minimally invasive surgical procedure called Transoral Endoscopic Thyroidectomy.**

St John Subi is the only private hospital in WA offering the procedure, which is used to treat a range of thyroid conditions including thyroid cancer and Graves' disease.

The procedure involves the surgical removal of all or part of the thyroid gland.

Surgeons access the gland between the lower lip and gum without a skin incision.

The surgery is performed by a limited number of surgeons worldwide, including the hospital's endocrine surgeon, Associate Professor Ming Khoon Yew.

In addition to pioneering the procedure at the hospital, he was the first surgeon to perform it in Australia, last year.

Professor Ming Yew said it offered many patient benefits compared to traditional open surgery.

"Previously, patients were left with a scar on the neck which could be prominent and often resulted in feelings of self-consciousness," he said.

"This new surgery has an excellent safety profile and patients experience reduced postoperative pain and a smooth recovery process."

Since being introduced to the hospital in June, a total of 25 procedures have been performed at the hospital – the largest number of cases at a pri-



*Associate Professor Ming Khoon Yew.*

vate hospital across Australia and New Zealand.

Because the procedure is minimally invasive, most patients need to stay in hospital only overnight and are able to sip water and eat soft foods the day after surgery.

Hospital CEO Shirley Bowen said the hospital had been providing cancer services since 1898, longer than any other private hospital in WA.

"Over the decades, we have invested heavily in research and clinical trials specific to cancer and have introduced a variety of new procedures and facilities to ensure that our oncology patients are provided leading and complete care," Professor Bowen said.

"This state-of-the-art surgical procedure reflects our commitment to innovation and to ensuring our patients experience the best possible surgical outcomes."