



Baby Marissa Celeste Smith with mother Elizabeth Smith and obstetrician Dr Elizabeth Jackson

City birth delivers on Far North Queensland visitor expectations

Bianca Keegan, The Cairns Post
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BEING born in the tropics makes perfect sense for baby Marissa Celeste.

The precious bundle is the first daughter to American parents Elizabeth and Jacob Smith, who now live in Papua New Guinea.

The family were among the first to use one of Cairns Private Hospital's new purpose-designed birth suites, which have been adorned with tropical wall images and opened last week.

Marissa was born last Tuesday and despite her mother, the obstetrician and a midwife sharing the same name (Elizabeth), her name was somewhat inspired by nature.

"Marissa Celeste was the only girls' name my husband and I could agree on," Mrs Smith said.

“Marissa means ‘sea’ and celeste is Spanish for ‘blue’ and also French for ‘sky’.

Mrs Smith said it was a pleasant surprise that the suite where 3.68kg Marissa was born displayed an image of the sky meeting the ocean.

“We loved the mural on the wall,” Mrs Smith said.

“My first (child) is 17 months old and we are Americans working in PNG so we came to Australia on a medical visa to have Marissa.

“It’s our first time in Cairns. We had some friends who delivered (their babies) in Cairns before and they told me about the city and how special it is.

“The rooms (in the birthing suite) were really nice.”

Hospital CEO Shane Mitchell said stage two of the redevelopment included a complete renovation of the maternity ward, including newly designed birthing suites, six new rooms and a new special-care nursery.

“Stage two of the \$22 million redevelopment is complete and we are on track to complete the entire redevelopment by June this year,” Mr Mitchell said.

Conversion of the medical ward to private ensuite rooms was complete and the new purpose-built rehabilitation gym would open this week.

“This will increase our rehab capacity to three times what it has previously been.

“It will also allow inpatient and day program rehabilitation services.”

<https://www.cairnspost.com.au/lifestyle/baby-treated-to-new-private-suites/news-story/810977fa5f946206b5e9e7ff9c79abca#load-story-comments>