

Technology helps sick kids

A REMARKABLE technological innovation developed in Queensland is helping sick kids in Mount Isa Hospital facing painful medical procedures.

The hand-held DITTO, a new digital diversional therapy tool reduces anxiety-related pain, by engaging a child in games, stories and movies, all of which are interactively operated by the child to distract them during a wide range of often upsetting medical procedures.

Visiting Mount Isa Hospital yesterday to look at the new device, Member for Mount Isa Betty Kiernan welcomed the impact these machines would make on sick children.

"I was able to be with young Warren when surgeon Dr Raj Kapadia was checking on him and we used the machine which was a great distraction for Warren and me during the visit," Mrs Kiernan said.

"As a parent myself, I know there is nothing harder than having a sick kid or a child in pain so this device is something that would be great in every children's ward.

"The DITTO device has been clinically proven to significantly lower pain and anxiety during medical procedures.

"DITTO means less time is spent trying to calm and soothe young patients.

"There is nothing more important than keeping our kids healthy and bringing them comfort when they are in pain. This will make a massive difference for kids and their parents during such a stressful time," Mrs Kiernan said.

The device, which was developed by Brisbane-based company Diversional Therapy Technologies, is appropriate for children of all ages with a wide variety of medical conditions.

"It also offers fun modes of interaction through touch screen and motion sensor technology. The DITTO is also waterproof which makes it highly versatile in a hospital setting.

"This device is just an extraordinary piece of innovation and I'm thrilled at the comfort and care it will bring to kids and their families." Mrs Kiernan said.



DISTRACTED: Member for Mount Isa Betty Kiernan with patient Warren and Mount Isa Hospital surgeon, Dr Raj Kapadia. -zz