



When Kim Addison and her partner Dave lost their baby boy Theodor it was a traumatic experience.

"It was our first pregnancy together and we had to medically terminate it at 22.5 weeks," says Kim, who at the time of going to print was due to deliver a baby girl.

"The hospital staff really looked after us and when it came to the date of Theodor's first birthday, we wanted to do something to honour his memory."

The couple set up a fundraising page with the aim of raising money for a makeover of Birth Suite Room 32 where they said goodbye to Theodor.

"We just wanted to make the room a little more homely and less clinical for the sake of other couples who would be going through a similar experience," Kim says.

"We raised over \$2,700 for the Townsville Hospital Foundation, who also added some of their own funds to the project."

Having heard about the wonderful design skills of Ann Sanker, owner of The Coloured House, one of the midwives gave her a call to see if she'd be willing to oversee the makeover.

"When I heard about the cause, I was only too happy to help," says Anne, who offered her services for free.

RIGHT FROM LEFT:  
Townsville Hospital  
Foundation General Manager  
Judy Higgins-Olsen, Anne  
Sanker from The Coloured  
House and Kim Addison.



## MAKEOVER BRINGS SMILES

Losing a baby is a shocking experience, which is why one mum who has lived through it has raised funds for the Townsville Hospital Foundation.

Anne devised a new paint scheme, convinced her wholesaler to donate free material for new curtains and worked with the Townsville Hospital Foundation's Andrea McLeod on approaching local businesses for their support.

"Fantastic Furniture were awesome — they supplied a comfortable feature chair for the room, a lamp, artworks and some cushions," Anne says.

"Ross Joinery gave us a great price on building a day bed for the space, Bed Bath N' Table gave us a discount on linen, and Townsville Betta Home Living donated a bar fridge, TV and sound system."

Other key elements of the

makeover included the installation of a skylight (so it feels like you're looking up through the leaves of a tree) and the creation of a flip-lid panel for the area behind the bed to hide all of the medical equipment.

"We wanted to create a totally different sensation from walking into a hospital room — it needed to be more special and make those women and their families feel as though they were in a more home-like environment," Anne says.

Kim and Dave are delighted with the results of the makeover and the midwives are already reporting that the room is making

a difference to the families who are using it.

"We just wanted a positive way of remembering our son and honouring his birthday," Kim says.

"Thankyou to everyone for their donations — we know the makeover will bring comfort to others going through a difficult time."

For more information about how to donate to the Townsville Hospital Foundation, please visit [www.thfoundation.org.au](http://www.thfoundation.org.au)