

NEWS

FIVE YEARS OF HELPING CREATE LITTLE MIRACLES LIKE ALEXIS

One of the first babies to be conceived with the help of City Fertility Centre on the Gold Coast will be joining in to celebrate the clinic's fifth anniversary in July.

Shortly after opening in 2005, little Alexis Lee Hoenstok was one of City Fertility Centre Gold Coast's first success stories – and she will soon celebrate her fourth birthday.



Parents Sylvia and David said Alexis is a typical little girl who loves all things to do with Barbie, princesses and fairies.

"She also has a great sense of humour and is clever and strong minded like most four-year-olds," said Sylvia.

After starting to try and have a baby from the age of 28, Sylvia and David's journey took seven long years of unexplained infertility.

For the first few years they weren't too worried and tried natural therapies. They finally sought the help of fertility specialist Dr Andrew Davidson at City Fertility Centre and had success on their second IVF attempt.

After a trouble-free pregnancy, Alexis was born via water birth at John Flynn Hospital at 39 weeks.

Miraculously Sylvia and David now also have 16-month-old Harry who was conceived naturally.

Dr Davidson, Medical Director City Fertility Centre said over the past five years the number of new patients needing assistance has continued to grow: "We now have seven fertility specialists consulting from our clinics in Tugun, Robina and Benowa."

The number of people undergoing IVF treatments is on the increase according to the latest official report Assisted reproductive technology in Australia and New Zealand 2007. There were 56,817 treatment cycles in Australia and New Zealand in 2007; an increase of nearly 13% since 2006 and of almost 54% since 2003. In total, 10,856 live born babies were born following ART treatment in 2007 in Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Davidson said that while City Fertility's success rates were above industry standards it was important for couples to be aware of the many factors that influence a couple's chances of success.

"Every couple's circumstances are unique and we therefore tailor a unique treatment plan to suit them," he said.