



Life gets better with Giggle on the rounds

COMING to life . . . robot Giggle, operated by Mark Gladman, *inset*, gets acquainted with Toowoomba's Finn Dourley. Picture: David Martinelli

A ROBOT named Giggle is giving children with cancer something to laugh about.

The Camp Quality mascot visits cancer patients at the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane every Thursday.

Toowoomba comedian Mark Gladman operates the robot with a remote control and headset.

"When I speak, Giggle's mouth moves and my voice comes out of the robot," Mr Gladman said. "Giggle goes into a room, tells jokes, has a good laugh with the kids and for that couple of minutes brings respite."

"We've seen children who . . . haven't laughed because of the trauma of their treatment for cancer, actually laugh . . . because Giggle's been able to come in and brighten up their day."

Mr Gladman normally stays outside the ward while Giggle and a volunteer move around the room talking with the children.

"He went into a room one day and a little boy just sat down and started a conversation and about two minutes into the conversation, he looked at Giggle and said: 'How do you fit the boy inside there?'" Mr Gladman said. "We thought that was quite funny. That's how real Giggle looks."

Janelle Miles

