



Hospital is home for tiny Adelaide

JILL PENGELLEY

BABY Adelaide Freeman knows only one home – and that is the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Born seven weeks early with a rare chromosomal disorder, she has been there since her birth on June 10.

Yesterday Minyon Freeman, 33, made her daily visit to be with her daughter. "I come in to give her a cuddle and love her," she said.

Adelaide has gained 3kg and her parents are breathing a little easier, but there is a long road ahead.

Her syndrome, called 2q37 deletion, has been documented only about 100 times worldwide. The name relates to a portion of missing X chromosome and presents as a range of complications, which vary in nature and severity.

Adelaide has enlarged ventricles in the brain, a hole in her heart, problems sucking to feed and a hernia.

Ms Freeman, husband Scott and son Oscar, 2, from Renmark, will stay in the city until after Christmas for Adelaide to be monitored. They expect she will leave hospital soon and return only for appointments.

Ms Freeman said Rose Ward, in line for an upgrade, had become a second home to the family. Fundraising by Woolworths will pay for next year's refurbishment.



RARE DISORDER: Minyon Freeman watches over daughter Adelaide, who has not left hospital since she was born prematurely three months ago. **Picture:** SARAH REED