

News from the Field



Volume 7, Issue 8– August 2018

Fairfield Hospital

Message From The GM

Our Emergency Department Redevelopment continues to progress at a rapid rate of knots. The new waiting room, triage areas and fast track our now giving us some indication of how our new workspaces are going to look.

The process for recruiting a new General Manager for Fairfield has commenced, with potential candidates being interview in the first week of October.

I wanted to congratulate Robyn El-Khair and Sandra Lombardini for their work they undertook in preparing for our multicultural launch here at Fairfield. The event was well attended, and certainly showed everyone in attendance that we are truly committed to multiculturalism at Fairfield. The guest speakers and the community groups, both singing, dancing and talking about business opportunities were truly inspiring.

We certainly have had a large increase in activity over the last few weeks. This has seen demand in our ED and our wards really pushed and we have on every occasion been able to meet the demands of that pressure.

To meet these demands, requires the whole hospital to be working together as a team to provide safe care to our patients. I wanted to thank every staff member who has worked hard over this period of time.

A gentle reminder to everyone that you need to make sure that your fire training is current. Please check notice boards for times of training schedules. If you need to go let your manager know and they can help you book in. This is mandatory training and it is better to be prepared and trained in what to do.

It is also vitally important for managers to undertake yearly performance review with you. This enables us to provide feedback on your last year, plan for what opportunities you might need to be provided with in your career and also for you to provide honest feedback to your manager.

We are hearing positive feedback from the staff that TYE rounding is having a positive effect on Fairfield. This is a real positive is transforming our culture for both our patients and our staff. The staff of Fairfield are the most important asset we have, I appreciate those who contribute to patient care in the application they put into doing their job well- all the time!

Ken Hampson

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Multicultural Health Week— Cultural Competency Launch

This year the theme of Multicultural Health Week is **Health Literacy**. Multicultural Health Week also provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of multicultural health services across the State and acknowledge the contribution of other organisations in developing multilingual resources.

This month marked the launch of the District's new Cultural Competency Training at Fairfield Hospital. The event was streamed live across the entire LHD. This critical training program is a key area for professional development for staff. The program will equip the SWSLHD health care staff to communicate and work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities more effectively. We also launched the translation of 'Five Ways to Well Being' resources. A huge thank you to the Spanish Choir group, The Peace Makers Ensemble, and Sophea Lee from Angkor Flowers and Crafts for inspiring us and entertaining us during the launch.



FUNDRAISING FOR NSW FARMERS

“Fiva (\$5) for a Farmer”

Fairfield Hospital staff and Fairfield Community have raised an impressive \$5798 for the staff of Lightning Ridge Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) - a 50 bed regional public hospital in far north NSW.

Leeanne Gray, NUM Orthopaedic Ward at Fairfield Hospital, had a trip planned to northern NSW and had a great desire to help the struggling drought-ridden community there. She decided to venture on a fundraising exercise for the MPS staff caring for those affected by the drought, recognising the stress it can cause staff to see such distress in their community. Many of the staff is also personally affected by the serious drought. Permission was sought from and granted by the DNMS and GM to fundraise, and the great majority of Fairfield Hospital staff

got completely behind the venture. There had been 3 days where staff dressed in farmer’s clothes for a \$5 mufti donation. There had been 2 cake stalls and sausages sizzles that raised the bulk of the money. All cakes, sausages, bread rolls etc. were donated by staff themselves to assist in this fabulous enterprise to help their colleagues.

Leeanne has been in contact with Kerrie Irvin, Nurse Manager at the MPS to give her the great news about the donation. A bank cheque will be given to Kerrie by Leeanne and Belinda Pellizzon, NUM ED. The money is specifically for staff wellness, and Kerrie thanks us all for it. Kerrie has further asked permission to spread the love, and divide the proceeds amongst other small local MPS’s to provide services for their staff wellness also.

We will provide an update and photos of the cheque handover in next month’s issue.



Community Engagement

The August Fairfield Consumer & Community Participation network meeting was robust with enthusiasm. Welcome back to Charles Gream—the network missed you. Special mention to our guest observers Aunty Sue and Shirin who brought much insight (we are hoping they will join the network!)

The Consumer Participation Annual Conference will be held on Friday 14 September at The Warwick, Liverpool. Consumer Representative Sammi Sayed will be presenting on the day with Maternity Manager Stephanie Nunn.

If you are interested in attending and learning about consumer participation, please contact Robyn El-Khair on 0467 734 333.



Palliative care volunteer program

The South Western Sydney launched a new palliative care volunteer program in August. This program is seeking representatives from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities particularly for Fairfield because of its culturally diverse community.

Susie Thomas and Thi Nga La have completed the 6 week free specialised training and are now assisting patients with culturally appropriate support.

Ms Nga is one of the first volunteers for the program and will support patients from the Vietnamese community through relaxation of the mind, meditation and support.

Susie was a nurse for 40 years and lost a best friend to cancer and now wants to provide support and a listening ear to those in need.

For more information on the Fairfield Hospital Palliative Volunteer program and for information on how you can help and be involved, please contact Arlene Roache on 8738 9755.



A special mention to Grill'd Wetherill Park who continue to support Fairfield Hospital with a recent donation of \$600. They will be coming in soon with a toy donation for the Children's Ward.

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

On Friday 10/8/2018 Katrina Sing (Fairfield's Aboriginal Liaison Officer) and Justin Smith (NUM Children's Ward) hosted an event for National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (A&TSI) Children's Day.

Katrina wanted to have the children to come to the hospital and have a positive experience.

Children's Day is a time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. The day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children, as well as learn about crucial impact that culture, family and community play in the life of every child.

Our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children are the youngest people from the longest living culture in the world, with rich traditions, lore and customs that have been passed down from generation to generation. Our children are growing up strong with connections to family, community and country.

Fairfield Hospital celebrated all things kids for National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day.

The Hospital held a fun-filled event starting with a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony and a Welcome to Country. The day included a sausage sizzle, an Aboriginal community artwork project (which will later be displayed in the Hospital), storytelling, colouring in, show bags, community stalls with lots of resourceful give a ways and fun stuff, and a Royal Fire Service vehicle for the children to explore and have turns with the fire hose. There were lots of handball games and footballs being passed around, and traditional Aboriginal singing and dancing inviting children to participate.

Katrina said "Children's Day was a time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. Our Children are the centre of our families and the heart of our communities. They are our future and the carriers of our story".

Katrina further added "It is also a day to acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children do not enjoy the same opportunities as most Australians and we as a health service must stay committed to closing the gap." The event was a great success with lots of community sponsors and involvement including local schools.

Thank you to all the organisations and partners involved to make it a fabulous day:

- Our local schools for attending with their students (Good Samaritan Catholic College, Bonnyrigg High School, Prairiewood High School, St Francis Xavier Primary school) and other local community
- All the amazing NSW health teams for all your support
- The team at Fairfield, particularly the Social Work team for their willingness to help and participate in any way they could
- Billy Tompkins and his daughters Dakota and Minnie for Welcome to Country, the smoking ceremony and a performance
- Katie Leslie for performance, both solo and with children
- Aunty Susan Grant for the community art project
- Go for Fun team for the fresh fruit on the day
- NSW Drug Health, 2 to School Kari Resources
- RFS, for bringing along a vehicle for the kids to explore
- Woolworths for the sausages, onions, plates and serviettes (donations)
- Big W for the balloons & table clothes (donations)
- Bakers Delight for the bread rolls (donation)
- Kennard's Hire for the table and chairs (donations)



Thank you to all who supported and participated in our healthy breakfast as part of our **BOUBCE BACK** program. Staff enjoyed healthy options hot /cold breakfast and had an opportunity to interact with their colleagues. The feedback from staff was very positive and they appreciated this initiative. Special mention to Woolworths, Trims and Chobani for supporting and sponsoring this event. More activities and prizes will continue throughout the year to promote health and wellbeing for Fairfield Hospital staff.



Dr Allicia Chin Anthony is the newly appointed Community Geriatric Staff Specialist in Fairfield Hospital. Dr Anthony graduated

from the University of Tasmania and has worked in multiple hospitals in the Sydney South West (Liverpool, Braeside, Bankstown and Campbelltown.)

Her interests lie in managing frail elderly patients with multiple co-morbid medical conditions. She has expertise in managing issues relating to cognition, falls and polypharmacy. She also has a special interest in palliative medicine and has completed a Clinical Diploma in Palliative Medicine.

Dr Anthony is working together with Dr Gayatru Majumdar for the Fairfield Hospital Geriatric Flying Squad. This is a Geriatrician-led community program that primarily targets and responds to acutely deteriorating residents in nursing homes, with an aim to reduce hospital presentations by providing early and efficient treatment to suitable elderly residents in aged care facilities. The team also provides support in managing terminal care of elderly residents in aged care facilities allowing them to remain in the facility for end-of-life. The team currently consists of two geriatricians, Dr Allicia Chin Anthony & Dr Gayatri Majumdar and is supported by Rozina Shekhar (Area Dementia/Delirium CNC) and Vaulina (Pauline) Vueti (ASET CNC).



Women's Healthcare Australasia- National Collaborative Project. For obvious reasons the topic of 3rd and 4th degree perineal tears doesn't seem to come up a lot of conversations outside of the maternity setting! It is however one of the most costly and traumatic possible outcomes of a vaginal birth depending geographic location.

It can effect up to 6% of deliveries in our country. With the rate of perineal tears rising in Australia despite our declining birth rate, the time for national action was initiated by Women's Healthcare Australasia and the Clinical Excellence Commission. Here at Fairfield Hospital the rates of 3rd and 4th degree tears in 2017 was 3.5%. In context, this meant that 58 women entering our service sustained a 3rd or 4th degree perineal tear while delivering—the effects of which can be long lasting. With sponsorship from our Local Health District, the Fairfield Maternity Services Team became part of a national initiative to change these numbers and outcomes for women. The introduction of evidenced based practices in the Birthing Unit environment has meant that staff have been using strategies to mitigate the risk of tear occurring. In practice, this means that our Birthing Unit Midwives have adopted practices such as using warm compression sponges during labour and taking a hands on approach when delivering our future generation. Other practices have been adopted and changed and these have included our obstetric medical colleagues. 7 months after the introduction of these and other interventions, we are proud to report that our rate of 3rd and 4th degree tears is currently sitting at 1% (15 women in 2018.)



Best wishes to our Electrician Glenn Baker on his retirement. Glenn was at Fairfield Hospital for almost 20 years as part of the Engineering team.

The Engineering team will greatly miss him as will all of Fairfield Hospital.



Car park exit machines are now upgraded to accept card payment on exiting the car park. Option is available to pay wave or insert your card.

A payment machine is also located in the front foyer prior to leaving the Hospital.