

News from the Field



Volume 4, Issue 3– March 2015

Fairfield Hospital



Inside this issue:

Message From The GM

As you all know our General Manager Arnold Tammekand is currently on leave recovering from surgery. I pleased to report that he is doing well and will soon be returning to the Fairfield team.

On Monday 23 March 2015 the Local Heath District Board visited Fairfield Hospital. The Board members toured the Emergency Department, HDU/CCU and the ESSU in Ward 2B. Feedback on the day was very positive from the Board members . After the tour and afternoon tea with Community Representatives and Fairfield Service Managers a Board meeting was held here.

There have been some substantial equipment purchases made which were a new ultrasound machine in radiology, ventilator for HDU/CCU and 2 CTG machines for the Birthing Unit.

The local community has been very generous to Fairfield Hospital with a fundraising dinner being held on Sunday 29 March 2015 by the Asia-Australia Association. The dinner was to raise funds for both Fairfield and Bankstown Hospital. A \$1,000 donation

was received on the night with final donation yet to be confirmed.

On 24 April 2015 a representative from Fairfield RSL will be conducting an ANZAC commemoration ceremony here and all staff are invited to attend. The event is also opened to the community.

Save the date!
Thursday 28 May,
Fairfield Hospital
Open Day.

News from the General Practice Unit	2
Community Participation	2
Close the Gap	3
YourSay Survey	3
Staff Notices	4
Seniors Week	4
Physiotherapy News	4

Oral Health Presentation Fairfield West Public School

Fairfield Community Oral Health Service located at Fairfield Hospital were invited by Fairfield West Public School to provide a presentation to the P&C group at the school. Thank you to Mrs Mai Lai and Mr Youaou Rohan, who are the Community Liaison Officers at the school for the interest in our Hospital Service and the opportunity to present to their parent groups. Leanne Bray who is an Oral Health Promotion Champion from Fairfield Oral Health Clinic presented the session at Fairfield West Public School. The information session

discussed eligibility and how to access the dental service as well as information and tips on how to keep your mouth healthy. The audience were very enthusiastic in finding out about free dental service for both adult and children. Dental treatment for children under 18 years of age is free at NSW public Dental Health Clinics. Adults need to have a concession card to access

the free NSW Public Dental Health Services.

Clinic locations include: Fairfield, Bankstown North, Ingleburn, Liverpool, Narellan, Rosemeadow and Yagoona.

For more information you can contact them on: (02)9293 3333.



News From the General Practice Unit

Dr Alan Huynh joins the GP Unit. Alan has previously worked as a senior resident in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and is starting his family medicine career at Fairfield. Among his many accomplishments, he has completed a Master of Public Health.

Alan has a passion for public health & policy. We are excited to announce that Alan was awarded the Ian O'Rourke Scholarship on Patient Safety, offered by the Clinical Excellence Commission. He will be conducting research project examining the use of digital health technologies by patients.

The General Practice Unit has listened to our patients and is now offering **booked appointments!** If you would like to use our service, please call **(02) 9616 8520** to make an appointment, or speak directly to our reception staff.

The General Practice offers their thanks to South western Sydney Clinical School, University of New South Wales (UNSW), who have invested in enhancing the educational capacity of the unit. This includes a new motorised examination couch, and audio-visual

equipment. These have already been used to deliver clinical training to medical students with excellent effect.

Dr Michael Tam recently had an article appraising the evidence of using probiotic yogurt to prevent diarrhoea in children taking antibiotics published in *Medical Observer*. In a nutshell, Yes! Yogurt does seem to help: <http://vitalis.com/?p=933>

Dr Michael Tam recently presented a poster (<http://vitalis.com/?p=940>) at the prestigious International Medicine in Addiction Conference, in Melbourne. His research looks at what patients think and feel about talking about alcohol drinking with their doctors. The research project which will run later this year will be looking at the views of people living in the Fairfield Local Government Area. Ms Aishwarya Modur, a medical student at UNSW will be helping with the project this year, and received the GP Synergy research scholarship.

Prof Liaw, Director of the GP Unit, is the Co-Director of this new UNSW hub that will see UNSW researchers collaborate to develop social business enterprises to improve the health of poor and marginalised communities. Prof Muhammad Yunus is Bangladeshi social leader who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2006 for pioneering concepts on microcredit and micro-finance.

The 2015 flue vaccines have arrived!

Hospital staff members:
If you are a hospital staff member, the flu vaccination are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the GP Unit during operating hours.

Community Patients:
The government provides the flu vaccine for free only if: *If you are over 6 months with a medical condition (e.g. Diabetes, asthma) * You are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person aged 15 years or over * You are pregnant * You are 65 years or over.

Grand Rounds

Grand rounds on Wednesday 18 March 2015 was presented by Cancer Services on the Topic: "What's so different about Dementia?" Palliative and End of Life Care in Hospital for People living with dementia by Dr Elspeth Correy, Staff Specialist, Palliative Medicine.

Community Participation

The Fairfield Consumer and Community Participation Network had their March meeting on Friday 27 March 2015. The Network had an intense meeting with two guest speakers. Yi Wen Pan – Infection Control Clinical Nurse Consultant and Cynthia Valderrama – Senior Oral Health Therapist. Both guests provided the network with valuable information about their respective areas.

The Community Participation Manager is also in the process of completing Annual Reviews with members of the Network to ensure the development of the members as well as provide a forum to voice any concerns or training they would like to undertake.

The Hospital and Network also extends its condolences to Fairfield Community Representative Eva Renciewicz on the loss of her father recently.

The Fairfield Consumer and Community Participation Network is a diverse and valued committee within the Hospital. If you live within the Fairfield Local Government Area and are interested as a Health Consumer or Local Resident to have a voice in how your local hospital is run, then I invite you to join this network. For more information contact: Robyn El-Khair

Community Participation Manager – Fairfield Hospital
(02) 9616 8830 Email: robyn-el-kahir@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Close the Gap @ Fairfield

Fairfield Hospital supported Close the Gap Day on Monday 16 March 2015 with a very special unveiling of a painting that was donated to Fairfield Hospital last year on Sorry Day by two aunties (Aunty Val and Aunty May). The Painting that is now proudly displayed in the front foyer is their representation of the stolen generation.



There were also Health Information stalls, over a 100 health food packs were given to visitors and patients, the launch of *Deadly Tots* a new phone app and the distribution of the "Didja know" books for staff.

This year the South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) supported National Close the Gap Day with the launch of a new phone app that provides health and wellbeing information and advice to Aboriginal families with young children.

SWSLHD Director of Aboriginal Health Nathan Jones said the free *Deadly Tots* phone app was a way to help local Aboriginal families access help and support more conveniently.

"*Deadly* is a word the Aboriginal community use for excellent or amazing, and *Deadly Tots* app aims to teach families how to help their baby get an excellent start in life," Mr Jones said.

"The App is based on the *Love, Yam, Sing, Read, Play* project which is all about ways to interact with your children to help them learn and grow.

"The app takes this a step further by providing age-specific information, advice and support to parents, reminding them about immunisations and health checks and letting them know about the developmental milestones their bub should be reaching at each age.

"Parents can use the app to contact local services and even create a memory book

for their bub with photos and milestones." he said.

As part of Close the Gap Day, the SWSLHD also launched the "*Didja know*" booklet, to help staff improve their knowledge and understanding of the diverse culture, customs, heritage and health needs of Aboriginal communities. Close the Gap Day is Australia's largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health campaign which aims to close the gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.



YourSay Survey

The YourSay survey is your opportunity to give feedback on what its like to work at SWSLHD.

Congratulations to Fairfield who have a 20.9% completion rate just days after commencement of the survey.

The Survey provides us with information about issues that are important to you and have the biggest impact on the work environment at SWSLHD. You have until Friday 24 April 2015 to complete the survey.

Please take the time to complete the 15 minute survey which can be found via the YourSay button on the intranet. Your participation is very much appreciated.

The IT training room is booked ever Wednesday until 06 May 2015 for staff to come down and complete the survey.



Staff Notices

Appointment of Head of Department, Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Following the re-appointments of all Head of Departments positions, we recently held interviews for the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Head of Department. Fairfield Hospital is happy to announce that **Dr Charles McCusker** has been successful in this appointment.

Appointment of Head of Department, General Medicine

Dr Harry Helprin has been successful in his appointment as Head of Department, General Medicine.

Staffing Changes within the Nursing Division

Ms Liliana Larkin has commenced her role as Acting Nurse Unit Manager in Ward 2A from 23 February 2015.

Ms Kathy McGuire commenced her role as Acting Nurse Unit Manager in the Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) from 30 March 2015.

These two positions above will be for a period of three months whilst recruitment to the position of Ward 2A Nurse Unit Manager is in progress.

Ms Linety Gumuyu has commenced her role as Transfer of Care Navigator After Hours effective 9 March 2015.



An effective way to take home more money.

For enquiries please contact the
Salary Packaging Team

PHONE **87386900**

SWS.SalaryPackaging@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Seniors Week

Fairfield Hospital participated in the Fairfield Council Seniors Expo on Friday 20 March at Fairfield Forum as part of Seniors week. Staff from the Oral Health Promotion and Fairfield Hospital enjoyed the day meeting friendly locals and promoting Hospital Services.

Harmony Day was also running at the same time, and so part of the day was spent promoting Hospital services at this event. *An overall successful day!*



Physiotherapy News



Congratulations are extended to Bernadette Brady from Physiotherapy, who has recently been awarded a scholarship from the Ingham Institute for a project she is completing as part of her PhD.

Bernadette is the Senior Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist at Fairfield Hospital, as well as a Senior Physiotherapist in the SWSLHD pain Clinic located at Liverpool Hospital. Her PhD studies are investigating Chronic Pain patients from CALD communities, hoping to find a new and alternative ways to manage this

pain that may be more effective than current management options.

The funding received from Ingham will be used to purchase equipment and run focus groups with Arabic, Assyrian and Vietnamese Communities living with chronic pain in the Fairfield and Liverpool areas. This is a first project in a series of very exciting research, that could change the management of chronic pain in our community.