News from the Field

Message From The GM

Arnold Tamankand has gone on annual leave, and for the next little period of time I have taken up the position as General Manager. Many of you will have seen me undertaking my rounding, getting to know the staff and how the Fairfield Facility operates. I wanted to thank everyone for making me feel most welcome.

Winter is approaching and we are well advanced in our planning to ensure we have resources available to allow us to deliver safe care through the winter months. I expect this winter strategy to be finalised very soon. We will then make sure all staff understand the strategy and what roles and responsibilities we all need to deliver on.

As many of you know and experienced last winter was not pleasant all reports indicate a long cold winter, but possibly the flu will not be as ferocious as last year.

I therefore encourage you to take advantage of the flu clinic immunisations we have at Fairfield. So far in excess of 200 staff have been vaccinated, but we have a lot more to go.

Teresa Benetos has returned from leave and I wanted to take the opportunity to thank Scott Metcalfe for his steady stewardship of the Division of Nursing as the Acting Director of Nursing and Midwifery.

Ken Hampson
A/General Manager

Emergency Department Redevelopment Update

“Have you seen our new waiting area? The hoarding around the new waiting area has come down and you can see into what will be a larger waiting area for our patients and visitors. We are getting closer and closer to getting this space and our new fast track area back from the builders. Once we have received this areas back, in the following weeks the current triage and fast track area will be hoarded up so the builders are able to build our new reception and triage space. As work on the refurbished ED ramps up we will undergo more and more disruption and the Exec thank you for your patience and willingness to work in with the building team.”

Launch of ICU 4

We have received advice that the District Board Meeting for the month of July will be held on campus in Fairfield. I am sure Arnold and the GM Unit will provide more information closer to the date.

Ken Hampson
A/General Manager

The transition of Fairfield HDU to ICU is well and truly under progress. The nursing staff have upskilled and are now competent in the management of mechanically ventilated patients for up to 24 hours. Additionally, the recruitment of ICU VMO’s has allowed for ICU 24-hour medical coverage. Together with the new equipment, resources, knowledge and education, Fairfield ICU will be fully functioning as a level 4 ICU very soon. We look forward to providing the Fairfield community with Intensive Care Services.

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The 2018 Patient Experience Symposium was held on the 9 & 10 April and it was attended by the Community Participation Manager, the Quality & Risk Manager together with Network members Nasrin Delshad and Robert Hunter from Fairfield. This was a great opportunity for personal development and to learn about the great work carried out around NSW with consumer engagement.

The Fairfield Community & Consumer Network members this month concentrated on completing their Annual Reviews and as per their request this month’s lunch was provided by Zouki The Field Café at Fairfield Hospital.

Staff also had the opportunity complete online and face to face workshop in “Working in Culturally Diverse Contexts” which is very relevant for the Fairfield community as over 71% of the population in Fairfield speak a language other than English.

Staff and visitors were invited to attend a special ANZAC Day Service which was held on Tuesday 24 April 2018 in the Hospital courtyard. Mr Paul Bryant, Senior Vice President, City of Fairfield RSL sub-branch oversaw the proceedings. The ANZAC prayers were read by staff members Robert Maxfield, Scott Metcalfe and Suresh Raju.

Then staff and the community members laid a wreath and poppies in commemoration of all those that served.

“LEST WE FORGET”

Fairfield CSSD had an open day on 10 April showcasing the sterilising services of Fairfield Hospital. The event included tours and competitions.

Winners of the competition: Jelly Bean Guessing: Tanya Tuai Trivia: Lidia Shleman—PAC who guessed 665 items were sterilised on the day in Fairfield CSSD. (Correct answer was 666)

What’s in the wrap—hole punch: Kathleen George CID
Falls Week

Every year, commencing on the first Wednesday of April we celebrate “April Falls day”. This year Fairfield Hospital decided to raise awareness all month long with a range of activities across the month. The theme this year was “Nutrition & Hydration”.

On Wednesday 4 April, the Hospital came alive with a conga line through the Hospital leading to Grand Rounds. We thank the Allied health and Medical staff for their presentations to increase awareness of the impact of falls and methods of prevention. Water bottles issued to patients on the 4 and 18 April were also relabelled with a sticker to promote hydration & falls prevention.

Throughout the month, the Physiotherapy Department and the ASET and Dementia & Delirium CNC’s also presented to Hospital staff on falls prevention topics.

The festivities of the month concluded on Wednesday 18th April with an Executive sponsored hot dog lunch for staff, information talk from the Hospital A/Patient Safety Manager, information stands from local nutrition representatives kindly organised by our Dietetics Department, the Falls Prevention Superhero Fashion Parade & announcement of the winners for Department/Ward decorations and superhero. It was a wonderful celebration.

Many thanks to all staff who decorated their Department/Ward, took part in the Superhero fashion parade, presented at Grand Rounds or were involved in the celebrations in any way. Special congratulations to Ward 2A for their Ward decoration and Occupational Therapy Department for their Superhero. It was a great way to promote falls prevention.

Hand Hygiene Relay Race

At least 3 staff members from each department participated in a hand hygiene relay race “Pump & Bump”.

The best score was calculated on best quality hand rub and quickest time.

The winning team comprised of 3 young medical students. Second winner was Ward 2A and CSSD came third.

Prizes were also awarded to the best compliant department in Renal Dialysis where hand hygiene compliance is at an exceptional 98%.

“Most outstanding hand hygiene auditor” was awarded to Yan Zhang from Renal Dialysis. Ward 1B was awarded the prize for “most improved hand hygiene compliance”, achieving 95% hand hygiene compliance in the last auditing period.

Fairfield Hospital is proud to be a leader worldwide in hand hygiene compliance. Hospital compliance is at 90%. Nursing compliance is at 93% and medical at 80%.

All results are well above the NSW State and National average.

Hand hygiene is everybody’s business and we encourage patients and relatives to participate, and remind and encourage staff to wash their hands.
Nadia Nocera will be relieving the Acting Patient Liaison Manager from 26 April to 27 July 2018 inclusive whilst Victoria Knol is on leave.

Mr Suchit Handa has been officially appointed to the role of Director Corporate Services—Fairfield Hospital. Suchit has been acting in the position for the last six to eight weeks, whilst recruitment processes occurred. Suchit has worked in South Western Sydney LHD for a number of years, carrying various portfolios across the LHD.

All staff members are invited to attend a “Town Hall” Session for an opportunity to have discussion with the Fairfield Hospital Executive.

Session is scheduled to be held on Monday 14 May 2018, 12.00pm - 1.00pm in the Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre.

Refreshments will be provided.

BEAT the FLUBUG
Get your Shot!

Annual Influenza vaccination is recommended for all health care workers free of charge. In order to protect yourself and vulnerable patients of the health service, staff are strongly encouraged to be immunised. There are scheduled dates, times & venues as to when the vaccinations will be available (refer to GIC No: 18/41).

From 1 May, GPU will also offer “fast track” influenza vaccination service to staff during the following time:

* Tuesday 1400-1500 hrs

Appointments can be made with GPU staff specialists via 9616 8520 during business hours to discuss any issues relating to mandatory annual influenza vaccination.

Influenza vaccine cannot give you the flu. The vaccine does not contain any live virus. The flu vaccine is very safe and generally people have no reaction. The most common side effects are tenderness, swelling and redness at the injection site which usually disappears within a few days. A small percentage of people may experience a mild fever and feel unwell for a few days—this is not the flu. These symptoms clear up within a few days. You are advised not to drive or operate machinery for 30 minutes following vaccination. It is recommended that all people who receive the flu vaccination remain in the vicinity for 15 minutes.

* Thursday 1400-1500 hrs

In April Shaniya Ogul and Jenisha Dahal from Ward 2B delivered an excellent presentation on the management of an infected mastectomy site. They gave us an update as to the type of surgery used and the challenges of managing the infected wound and associated drain sites. It really was a great presentation, topped off with Shaniya’s fantastic cupcakes for afternoon tea. Well Done!