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## Belly cast promotes health partnerships

A belly cast decorated with Aboriginal artwork is being unveiled at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital as part of a special event to highlight the health of Aboriginal mothers, babies and new families.

The plaster 'belly casting' was donated by a mother in the Cannalgalleon (New Directions) Program and was decorated by Aboriginal Health Worker Tanya Lee Castle.

South Western Sydney Local Health District Child and Family Health Nurse Unit Manager, Wendy Aspery said the painted belly cast was a beautiful way to symbolise the partnership between the Hospital, community health and local support services.

"From when a pregnant woman books in for her first Hospital antenatal appointment at around 20 weeks, to after she has delivered, there are a number of great local support services available including our Sustained Health Home Visiting Program located at Bankstown Community Health Centre," Ms Aspery said.

"The program provides a home visiting program which undertakes health monitoring and education support to families until the child reaches two years of age.

"During these visits staff undertake developmental checks, work with parents to help babies meet developmental milestones, refer clients to services that provide more intensive family support, transition into play groups and provide health education through a structured parenting program delivered in the community," she said.

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital Acting Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Linda Campbell said Hospital staff were committed to working with their colleagues in Community Health to ensure pregnant women felt comfortable coming to the Hospital, identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and accessing the amazing support services available.

"Our aim is to provide women and their babies with high quality care while they're with us and then ensure they get the best start as a family with support from fantastic services like the Cannalgalleon Program," she said.

The decorated belly cast will be permanently displayed in the Hospital's Antenatal Clinic.