

4 December 2015

## Milestone year for Karitane

This week Karitane will celebrate an important milestone of five years supporting families at Camden Hospital.

Karitane CEO Ms Grainne O'Loughlin said when the Residential Unit first opened it was assisting around 400 families a year.

"The Residential Unit at Camden has helped many local families and is the cornerstone of our service to families in Macarthur," she said.

"Over the years the service has expanded to include a toddler clinic, Children's Garden and parenting centre, now helping more than 600 families each year.

"We are extremely proud of our history as a trusted source of information and assistance for parents of newborns with issues such as sleep, settling and breastfeeding," she said.

Ms O'Loughlin said the Camden service was established because more than one quarter of clients from the Karitane service at Carramar came directly from south western Sydney and in particular from Camden and Campbelltown local government areas.

"Since we opened in 2010 we've been very fortunate to have wonderful support from the local community, business and charities.

"Our service has been embraced by the residents of Macarthur and we look forward to working with them for many more years to come," she said.

South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin congratulated Karitane staff on the anniversary.

"By next year it's projected that more than 8,400 children under four years old will be living in this area," Ms Larkin said.

"Karitane has been a wonderful addition to health services in Macarthur and I know it's a comfort to families to have this service available locally," she said.

The birthday celebration will form part of Karitane Parenting Centre's Annual General Meeting and Professional Day being held at Camden Hospital.

This year Karitane also celebrated 21 years at its Carramar site and 100 years of baby clinics in NSW.

The NSW Baby Clinics, Pre-Maternity and Home Nursing Board was established in 1914 and over the past 100 years, almost 7.4 million babies have been born in NSW, most of whom have been seen and cared for by NSW Health's child and family health nurses, or the equivalent at the time.