

South Western Sydney Local Health District



Media Release

16 October 2017

Person-centred care front and centre with launch of *Disability and Carers Strategy*

South Western Sydney Local Health District has officially launched its *Disability and Carers Strategy 2017-2022*.

The District's aim is to provide exemplary care and healthier communities, underpinned by equitable and dignified access to services. We will also implement, as part of the strategy, employment pathways for people with a disability and respect and value, the invaluable role of carers.

It also focusses on creating a workplace where our employees with a disability, or who have caring responsibilities, are supported to succeed in their chosen fields.

The District's Director of Allied Health, Sue Colley, said the strategy had been developed in conjunction with the District's Transforming Your Experience goals and included in-depth consultation with patients, carers, consumers and employees.

"As both a healthcare provider and a major south west Sydney employer, the District takes its responsibility to improve access and quality of disability services for both patients and employees very seriously," she said.

"This strategy aims to positively shape our organisational culture so patients and our team with a disability, and our consumers and team with carer responsibilities, have access to appropriate, safe, high quality services and opportunities. It guides our efforts to create exceptional care and work experiences."

The strategy promotes person-centred care, placing people with a disability, their carers and families, at the centre of the decisions about their care.

"We must not lose sight of the needs of those with a disability and also importantly, the carers who look after them," the District's Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said.

The District recognises the additional vulnerabilities and challenges faced by people with a disability or with carer responsibilities in accessing quality health care and working in complex organisations. Staff will use the strategy to promote respectful communication and inclusion, while responding to the needs of all diverse and vulnerable communities. The Strategy supports the "Don't Dis my ABILITY initiative".

It also encompasses the changing landscape created by the National Disability Insurance Scheme and My Aged Care reforms.