

Media Release

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Liverpool Hospital takes top honours at NSW Health Awards

Liverpool Hospital has won a coveted NSW Health Award with a ground-breaking culturally responsible pain management approach.

The chronic pain management program was the first of its kind to tailor treatment to incorporate the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of patients and their cultural understanding of pain into their care plan.

Headed by Liverpool Hospital Senior Physiotherapist Bernadette Brady, the program is leading the country in creating innovative ways to treat culturally and linguistically diverse patients with chronic pain.

South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive, Amanda Larkin, congratulated Ms Brady on her win and the finalists on their nominations.

“This is an example of the innovation that is ongoing throughout the District,” she said.

“I am very proud of the achievements of our staff as they continually strive to provide the best possible care for our patients.”

Ms Brady's program focused on the Vietnamese, Assyrian and Mandaean communities in south western Sydney and included group physio sessions facilitated by a translator.

A nine-month trial was so successful in increasing the number of patients attending and finishing treatment that Ms Brady now incorporates much of the trial program in her ongoing treatment of chronic pain patients.

The NSW Health Awards recognise innovation and excellence in the delivery of health programs and services to the NSW community throughout the public health system.

The District also had three other finalists in the awards:

- Aged Care and Rehabilitation Clinical Director, Professor Friedbert Kohler, was a finalist in the Collaborative Leader of the Year category.
- **Workplace Safety through Inventory Management:** a multi-disciplinary project to improve the environmental design and workplace practices in storerooms to improve staff and patient safety (A Safe and Healthy Workplace category)
- **CrisTAL to improve advance care planning:** a project to develop an assessment tool for early identification of frail older people presenting at emergency departments at five Sydney Hospitals (Health Research and Innovation category)

The finalists were selected by their peers from more than 160 entries from across the state.