

Media Release

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Liverpool Hospital's stroke care lauded

A new report from the Stroke Foundation has found Liverpool Hospital's care of stroke patients is the best in the country.

Liverpool Hospital neurologist, Associate Professor Suzanne Hodgkinson, one of the senior doctors heading up the stroke unit, congratulated the team on delivering fast, high-quality care to stroke patients.

"We are trying to provide the most excellent stroke care here at Liverpool Hospital, and we're really pleased the audit recognises the coordinated efforts of the doctors, nurses and allied health team," she said.

"Liverpool Hospital is home to one of the biggest and busiest comprehensive stroke centres in NSW and our team is proud the Stroke Foundation has named us as the best in the country."

The 2017 Acute Stroke Audit, launched at Liverpool Hospital today, found Liverpool's targeted investment and coordination of services resulted in improved outcomes for patients, like those seen at Liverpool, one of the state's biggest and busiest stroke centres.

Associate Professor Hodgkinson said the team met weekly to discuss the treatment of every patient and to identify any gaps in the care they were providing.

"Clinical Nurse Consultant Angela Firtko has been instrumental in ensuring excellence in these areas," she said.

"It is gratifying to see these efforts recognised on a national level."

Stroke Foundation Research Advisory Committee Member and leading stroke expert Professor Ricard Lindley said Liverpool Hospital was delivering "best practice clot busting treatment (thrombolysis), clot removal treatment (endovascular thrombectomy) and care on a Stroke Unit 24 hours a day, seven days a week".

"Liverpool Hospital demonstrates what can be achieved with a focus on quality stroke services, investment in planning and delivery as well as patient outcomes," he said.

"These services are directly resulting in lives saved and a better quality of life for stroke survivors."

Stroke Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Sharon McGowan, said the 2017 Acute Stroke Audit provided a benchmark for clinicians, health administrators and government to improve on.

“This year alone there will be more than 56,000 strokes in Australia – that is one stroke every nine minutes,” she said.

“By 2050 the number of strokes is expected to more than double to 132,500, many of them striking regional Australians.

“The Australian healthcare system must adapt to support healthcare professionals in the provision of best practice stroke care and improve how resources are utilised to deliver the best outcomes for all Australians.”

The audit recommended:

- Review stroke service coordination and links between metropolitan and regional areas as well as with ambulance services
- Continue to support access to and delivery of time-critical therapy (thrombolysis and endovascular thrombectomy), and ensure all patients in all areas in Australia have a clear access path to be transferred to receive appropriate stroke therapy
- Acute services need to examine bed management and patient flow practices to increase admission rates to a stroke unit and increase length of time treated in a stroke unit
- A greater focus on identifying and addressing patient rehabilitation needs is required
- Review of discharge processes to ensure appropriate risk factor education and medication is delivered.