

23 January

New Cardiac Interventional Unit opens at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital

The Bankstown community is set to benefit from a new state-of-the-art \$1.6 million Cardiac Interventional Unit.

Director of the Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital unit, Dr Kaleab Asress, said heart disease remained the biggest killer in Australia, as well as south western Sydney. The Cardiac Interventional Unit, officially launched today, would change the lives of patients with heart disease, and help with the fight against it, he said.

“Previously, patients in need of cardiac interventional procedures would need to seek treatment at other hospitals further away from their homes, or wait to be transferred to these facilities if they are already in Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, often delaying life-saving treatment,” he said.

“This new unit will allow those patients to receive the best quality care closer to home.”

Ernesto Hernandez was the first patient to benefit from the unit, undergoing a procedure to diagnose a slight narrowing of the arteries in his heart.

Dr Asress said Mr Hernandez was able to undergo the procedure at Bankstown instead of being transferred to another hospital, and the results allowed him to receive more targeted treatment earlier.

Mr Hernandez said he felt his care in the new unit had been “very good” and the team at the unit was “fantastic”.

“The nursing was fantastic and the doctors delivered a very good service, a job well done,” he said.

The unit is equipped with catheterisation technology and diagnostic imaging equipment that allows clinicians to explore the arteries and chambers of the heart where narrowing or blockages occur.

This is done by threading a thin tube from an artery or vein in the arm or groin up through the blood vessels that lead into the heart.

Once the problem has been diagnosed, doctors can then deliver treatment to unblock the heart vessels, relieving symptoms and improving patient outcomes.

“Receiving timely care is very important for cardiac patients, and this new unit will mean our patients are able to have heart and blood vessel conditions diagnosed and treated as quickly as possible on the one site,” Dr Asress said.

The installation of the catheterisation laboratory is part of a strategic plan to enhance the services available at the hospital, including plans for an interventional radiology suite and vascular intervention.