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## **Hundreds of new graduates take the leap into nursing**

More than 270 new nurses and midwives have begun their nursing and midwifery careers at South Western Sydney Local Health District.

The District's Director of Nursing, Sonia Marshall, said the new graduates had come to one of the most progressive and innovative areas in the state.

"Our new nurses and midwives have so many opportunities to excel and progress their careers here in south western Sydney," she said.

"Not only will they be exposed to a wide variety of services and experiences, they will also have the opportunity to get involved in some of the District's cutting-edge treatments and research as they continue their careers."

The District has welcomed 256 new nurses and 18 new midwives.

They are part of a record more than 2400 graduate nurses and midwives who have started their careers this year.

Ms Marshall said the District's strong research and technology focus, combined with its commitment to delivering safe and quality care for the community, was an attraction for new graduates.

"Our hospitals are busy and are focused on finding the best, most efficient way to deliver safe, quality healthcare," she said.

"Our new nurses and midwives have so much potential and we look forward to seeing how they are able to make a positive contribution to the lives of their patients."

Second year graduate midwife, Hannah Murray, said she had found working in the District to be very professionally fulfilling.

"I came to Campbelltown as a student midwife with the intention of doing my training and then moving on to work in a tertiary hospital," she said.

"But I found the support and mentorship from the staff to be outstanding, especially as a junior midwife.

"I was keen to stay and give back to Campbelltown a bit because they had supported me so much."

Ms Murray now works in Midwifery Group Practice at Campbelltown Hospital and says the District is wonderful for young nurses and midwives to work.

"The opportunities available are a real draw," she said.