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TWO CATEGORY WINS AT 2018 NSW HEALTH AWARD

South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) is celebrating after taking out two major prizes at the 2018 NSW Health Awards in Sydney.

Liverpool Hospital's central venous access service and after hours clinical support team won the Patient Safety First category for developing a program that makes life less stressful for patients with tricky veins.

South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said the extended dwell peripheral catheter program was a great example of staff responding to patient needs in an innovative way.

"One in three patients has veins that are difficult to see or feel. Our catheter program team is making sure a cannula is put in the first time and with little pain," Ms Larkin said.

"The biggest thing we want to avoid is distress and pain for the patient."

The program's success has resulted in it being adopted in hospitals in the US, UK and Canada.

Janette Du Buisson Perrine, who has spent the last 20 years giving her time to improve services and facilities for people with a mental illness in the District, was named Volunteer of the Year.

"The wonderful work our volunteers do, including Janette Du Buisson Perrine, does not go unnoticed. She has been Chair of our Mental Health Consumer, Carer and Community Committee since 2014, an outstanding contribution."

Minister for Health Brad Hazzard joined with staff, clinicians and academics to pay tribute to the wide array of health professionals who work tirelessly to improve the delivery of care to patients across NSW.

"The winning projects demonstrate the depth of talent and creativity that runs through NSW Health."

In 2018-19 the NSW Government is investing a record \$22.9 billion in health, representing a \$1.1 billion increase on the 2017-18 Budget. This includes \$19.2 billion towards improving services in hospitals in NSW this year.

This year, there were 33 finalists from 14 state-wide health entities competing for 11 award categories. Full descriptions of the projects in each category are available at: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/innovation/2018awards/Pages/finalists.aspx>