Clinical pharmacist goes above and beyond

A Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital clinical pharmacist, who has been her daughter’s voice for almost three decades, has received state wide recognition.

Swati Lele accepted the Carer Recipient Award at the NSW Carers Awards 2018 for her remarkable contribution to her family and the wider community.

Her journey began when her youngest child Geeta was born, non-verbal, Mrs Lele and her husband Sanjay had no idea what to expect next.

“We started realising she wasn’t reaching her milestones; there was no eye contact and she wasn’t crawling, then the seizures began,” Mrs Lele said.

Geeta would not sleep through the night until she was well into her teen years.

“It was like having a newborn. We have a routine now but we still struggle,” Mrs Lele said.

“Geeta has a severe intellectual disability, mobility issues and uncontrolled epilepsy with drop seizures, requiring 24-hour care.

“She has changed my perspective on life. Geeta has taught us patience and resilience.”

Despite a demanding home life, Mrs Lele’s sees her job at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital as her chance to help others.

She is drawn to those with disabilities, wanting to equip them with knowledge to navigate the health system. Her passion to help others has resulted in Mrs Lele organising an NDIS information session at the hospital.

“I love connecting with people; working at the hospital is my respite,” she said.

“Knowing I can help make a difference to the experience a patient and their family has at our hospital gives me strength.”