

30 January 2019

## **Our local health leaders honoured**

South Western Sydney Local Health District has received four top honours on Australia Day for contribution to health.

Professor Afaf Girgis, Dr Ahmad Alrubaie, Dr Andrew Browning and Grazia Fava were all named on the Australia Day 2019 Honours List.

South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin congratulated the award recipients on their valuable contributions.

“The wonderful work they all have been involved in at the District is outstanding,” Ms Larkin said.

“Their dedication to delivering world-class care to our community and the District’s strong tradition of research and collaboration is reflected in these awards.”

Professor Girgis was named a Member of the Order of Australia for her significant service to medicine and medical education in the field of cancer control and psycho-oncology.

Her affiliation to the District has resulted in significant advancements in cancer research both locally and on an international level, with huge influence on clinical practice in cancer treatment.

Her guidelines have helped change the way staff provide information to patients about their treatment and care.

Professor Girgis has had a hand in building up the younger workforce, seeing them reach their career achievements and, she has also produced over 300 peer-reviewed publications.

Dr Browning, founder of the Barbara May Foundation, received his honour for service to the international community through the provision of obstetric care to women in Africa.

With 20 per cent of the District’s staff contributing \$1 a week as part of its Workplace Giving Program, the Foundation is the main beneficiary of funds.

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital’s Dr Alrubaie received his Order of Australia Medal for service to the Iraqi community in Sydney.

He is at the forefront of double balloon enteroscopy surgery, a highly specialised procedure used to diagnose and treat small bowel conditions.

Ms Fava’s contribution is at a more grassroots level, having been a community representative of the District’s Disability and Carers Committee since 2012.