

14 June 2019

Research showcase reaches new heights

A record crowd attended this year's Health Beyond Research and Innovation Showcase which featured fascinating keynote speakers including history-making Olympian Jana Pittman and ground-breaking research presentations.

District Director of Research Les Bokey said the event highlighted the motivation, enthusiasm and commitment from clinicians, researchers and staff in finding new ways to provide care.

"We're driving great health care through clinical practice, education and research...we need all three to lead well," she said.

"I can't curb my enthusiasm; our plans are visionary and we have gone well beyond silo mentality."

Held at The William Inglis – MGallery by Sofitel, Warwick Farm, the two-day event put a spotlight on south western Sydney as a centre of innovation, collaboration and medical advancement.

Proudly presented by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, the premier event highlighted how research and innovation projects will transform health care.

The keynote speakers captivated the audience, from National Mental Health Commission Chair Lucy Brogden who was struck by the growth in Sydney's south west, to University of Sydney Professor Iain McGregor who outlined the six clinical trials underway using medicinal cannabis and plans for many more.

On day two, Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation Director, Professor Evelyne de Leeuw explored the idea of creating a healthy airport by way of bees, used to measure air pollution.

Olympian and final year medical student at Western Sydney University, Jana Pittman helped the entire auditorium "feel" her win gold in the 400m hurdles at the world championships by talking them through race day.

Highlights included NSW Health Secretary Elizabeth Koff launching the District's Research Strategy to 2023.

Professor Bokey said by using "inquiring minds", staff were helping discover the best health care.

"I look forward to next year's event; 2020 will be our opportunity to take the research showcase to new heights," he said.

The NSW Government invested approximately \$58 million in teaching, training and research across the South Western Sydney Local Health District in 2018/19.