

14 February 2022

Liverpool and Fairfield welcome the intern class of 2022

Smithfield resident Penelope Solofoni is one of more than 1,000 interns now starting their medical careers with NSW Health - a record number of new starters and the most of any state or territory in Australia.

Dr Solofoni is one of 10 new interns at Fairfield Hospital, while a further 46 interns are also commencing work at Liverpool Hospital. In total, South Western Sydney Local Health District is welcoming 129 new interns.

Now starting her training in Fairfield Hospital's General Medical Ward, Dr Solofoni's long-term goal is to become a GP and to help others in the Pacific Islander community.

"I'm excited to be starting my internship at my local hospital. I'm keen to serve and to increase the health literacy of my community," Dr Solofoni said.

South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said she was proud to welcome the interns to the region's public hospitals and wished them well for long and rewarding careers.

"It is an absolute pleasure to see these new interns officially join the ranks at South Western Sydney Local Health District. We owe a great deal of thanks to these junior doctors, many of whom have already worked either as Assistants in Medicine or student vaccinators as part of the COVID-19 workforce response," Ms Larkin said.

"They will continue to play a vital role in our District's hospitals as we navigate the challenges of this unprecedented, world-wide pandemic."

The new doctors starting their internship are entering a training program with networked hospitals throughout the state, providing formal and on-the-job training.

They receive two-year contracts to rotate between metropolitan, regional and rural hospitals to ensure the diversity of their experience. They also join different units in each hospital, including surgery and emergency medicine.

Interns are medical graduates who have completed their medical degree and are required to complete a supervised year of practice in order to become independent practitioners.

More information on the recruitment of JMOs can be found here:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jmo/Pages/default.aspx>