

15 August 2022

Staff recognised for excellence in nursing and midwifery

South Western Sydney Local Health District has today congratulated five outstanding nurses and midwives who are among 30 finalists nominated for the 10th annual NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

The finalists have been selected from nominations across eight categories which recognise nurses and midwives who have made a difference in clinical practice, management and leadership.

NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards finalists are:

- Nurse of the Year: Cecilia DeSousa, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Infection Prevention Unit, Liverpool Hospital
- Midwife of the Year: Kim Wood, Clinical Midwife Specialist, Liverpool Hospital
- Nursing/Midwifery Team of the Year: Liverpool Opioid Treatment Program, South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Healing Heart (colleague): Denise Burns, Nurse Unit Manager, Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre, Campbelltown Hospital
- Judith Meppem Leadership Award: Sonia Marshall, Director Nursing Midwifery and Performance, and Incident Controller, Emergency Operations Centre, South Western Sydney Local Health District

NSW Health Secretary Susan Pearce extended her congratulations to this year's finalists.

"These awards showcase the exceptional work nurses and midwives are doing in our hospitals each and every day. I want to acknowledge the finalists for their outstanding work and thank all our staff members who continue to deliver high quality care during these challenging times," Ms Pearce said.

"These awards began in 2013 during my time as Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer and I'm very pleased to now see them entering their 10th year."

District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin described the awards' nominees as exceptional role models in their profession.

"Nurses and midwives are at the forefront of our care and I thank them for their incredible leadership and dedication during the challenges of the pandemic and every day," Ms Larkin said.

"I am so proud of the finalists and I am delighted they have received this wonderful recognition."

The NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards will be celebrated at a ceremony on November 24 2022 from 2pm, which will be livestreamed.

The NSW Government has announced a record 10,148 full-time equivalent staff will be recruited to hospitals and health services across NSW over four years, in the nation's largest-ever health workforce boost, as part of the NSW Government's 2022-23 Budget.

The additional staff will include nurses and midwives, doctors, paramedics, pathologists and scientific staff, pharmacists and allied health professionals, as well as support and ancillary staff who ensure the continued operations of NSW hospitals and the wider public health system.

NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards

- Cecilia DeSousa is a Clinical Nurse Consultant in the Infection Prevention Unit at Liverpool Hospital. Cecilia's calm and compassionate approach has supported both staff and patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. From advising clinicians to making follow up calls to patients, Cecilia has provided kindness and expertise in challenging times.
- Kim Wood is a Clinical Midwife Specialist who works after hours at Liverpool Hospital. Kim has a women-centred philosophy which drives her to support midwives and non-midwifery staff across the hospital to provide safe quality care to women and their families.
- The Liverpool Drug Health Service Opioid Treatment Program works with people who are dependent on opioids to improve their health and lifestyle. The team shows compassion and professionalism whilst working with some of the most vulnerable and stigmatised members of the community.
- Denise Burns has devoted more than 40 years of her nursing career to care of cancer patients in south western Sydney - 20 as the highly regarded Nurse Unit Manager of the Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre at Campbelltown Hospital. She was nominated for her passion and dedication to staff and patients.
- Sonia Marshall is the Director Nursing Midwifery and Performance for South Western Sydney Local Health District, providing leadership and governance for the District's 6600 nurses and midwives. She has also led the District's COVID-19 pandemic response as Incident Controller of the Emergency Operations Centre with a magnetic and unwavering energy in meeting challenges head on. She is a highly resilient leader with a tenacious commitment to providing safe, compassionate healthcare.