The winners of the South Western Sydney Local Health District Quality Awards were announced at the inaugural SWS LHD Patient Safety Seminar held at Liverpool Hospital last month. Director Clinical Governance Mark Zacka said the District received more than 50 entries, six of which were also nominated for a NSW Health Award.

“The Quality Awards recognise the efforts and ideas of staff to continually improve the quality and safety of care we provide to our patients,” he said.

“The Patient Safety Champion Award was established to acknowledge staff who demonstrate outstanding leadership in patient safety,” Mr Zacka said.

Bankstown Hospital Infection Control Nurse Consultant Verily Thomas scooped the SWS LHD Patient Safety Champion Award. Verily was recognised for always working towards innovation and continuous improvement in infection control processes. Verily’s colleagues described her as a passionate and dedicated patient safety role model.

Hundreds of staff from across the District attended the Seminar which included talks on patient-centred care, foundations of a safety culture and a keynote address by Dr Raj Behal from the Rush University Medical Centre in Chicago.

Valerie Browning, the inspiration behind the charity supported by the District’s Workplace Giving Program (WGP) has won ‘The One’, an international humanitarian award founded by Rotary International District 3450. Ms Browning received the honour in Hong Kong recently, where she attributed the award to those her foundation helps. “This award is not mine, it is for the Afar people. Sometimes it feels like the world wants to wipe them off the face of the earth, but this will make sure the Afar people remain a part of this world. Thank you,” she said.

Ms Browning, a former Australian midwife, has been living and working in the horn of Africa since 1974. She established the Barbara May Foundation along with her brother, Dr David Browning, a former gynaecologist at Bowral Hospital and his son, Dr Andrew Browning. ‘The One’ award comes with US$100,000 to further the work of the Foundation. Staff have donated more than $300,000 to the Foundation through WGP, which has helped build a 20-bed maternity hospital in Afar, Ethiopia.

Through WGP staff can donate $1 a week to support charitable health projects in Australia and overseas. It takes less than a minute to join online: http://intranet.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/SSWAHS/WGP/
District Board Update

I’m sure many of you are happy to see the end of winter and welcome the beginning of spring, as I am. I’d like to thank all of those staff who worked hard through the busy winter period in our EDs and throughout our Hospitals. I am constantly impressed by the number of high caliber achievements of staff from across the District. This month I would like to congratulate Professor Michael Barton who was recently awarded the prestigious Medical Oncology Group of Australia Novartis Oncology Cancer Achievement Award. I would also like to congratulate Associate Professor Josephine Chow who was awarded the prestigious Winston Churchill Fellowship. These are both fantastic and well deserved achievements.

Hospital open days are an important way for our facilities to engage with their local communities and provide an excellent opportunity to showcase our services and facilities and also the great work of our hard working staff. I was therefore pleased to learn Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital was holding a Community Open Day on Wednesday 12 September. The day will include tours of the Hospital, information stalls and performances by local children. Community open days have also been held over recent months at Bowral, Camden and Fairfield Hospitals and I look forward to hearing about the open days planned at our other facilities in the near future. Finally, plans are underway for this year’s Annual Public Meeting, which will be held at Campbelltown Hospital on Friday 7 December. Hopefully you will be able to join us on the day to hear about the achievements and affairs of the Local Health District over the past year. I will provide you with further updates on plans for the Annual Public Meeting in future editions of this newsletter.

New cancer treatment at Liverpool

Liverpool Hospital recently performed its first donor bone marrow transplant, the first in south western Sydney, with the commencement of its allogeneic stem cell transplant program. The highly complex procedure is commonly used to treat blood cancers such as leukaemia. The treatment involves taking stem cells from a donor and giving them to the patient who has received high doses of chemotherapy, generally requiring a prolonged stay in hospital.

Professor Geoff Delaney, District Director Cancer Services said he was delighted the service had been established and patients now had access to this specialised treatment locally.

And the winners are...

Congratulations to the winners of the District Quality Awards:

Innovation Award:
Liverpool Hospital Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology – Hepatitis B education

Volunteer Service of the year:
SWS LHD palliative care volunteers

Excellence in the provision of mental health care:
Implementing the Tidal Model – Gna Ka Lun, Macarthur

Improvement in patient safety:
Waterflow Wednesday – Liverpool Hospital

Reducing Healthcare Associated Infections:
The Liverpool Hospital Staphylococcus Aureus Bacteraemia Project – Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Liverpool Hospital

Building the health workforce:
ABCs in Paediatric Emergency Nursing – Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital ED

Collaboration – working as a team:
Weekend Warriors – Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital

Improving primary health care in the community:
RENEW – SWS LHD Cardiovascular Stream, Area Renal Service

Empowering patients:
A moment in time photo – Community Health – Multicultural Health Services

Improving access to timely quality health care:
Improving access to joint replacement surgery – Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre, Fairfield Hospital

Keeping people healthy:
Under your skin – Sexual Health Service – Community Health
**Achievement honoured**

Ingham Institute and the District Research Director Professor Michael Barton (OAM) was awarded the prestigious Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA)-Novartis Oncology Cancer Achievement Award at the MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane.

The Award recognises the role Australian oncologists play in providing outstanding leadership in translational research, clinical practice and academic achievement.

Professor Barton said he was proud to be recognised.

“This award is not only a testament of my own work but also the work of my team and colleagues,” he said.

Amanda Larkin, District Chief Executive said Prof Barton’s contribution was outstanding and the District was privileged to have the opportunity to work with him.

![Professor Michael Barton.](image)

**A/Prof Chow’s prize**

District Manager Clinical and Business Services, Associate Professor Josephine Chow has been awarded a prestigious Winston Churchill Fellowship to investigate strategies for overcoming poor perception and improving the uptake of home-based dialysis therapies.

The Fellowship will take her to Canada to learn about the philosophy, methodology and innovations in the area of nocturnal (night time) home based haemodialysis and to Hong Kong to explore the success of its home-based peritoneal dialysis service.

A/Prof Chow said she was honoured to be awarded the Fellowship.

![NSW Governor Marie Bashir with Josephine Chow and her son at the awards presentation.](image)

**Redevelopment update**

Early works have commenced on the Redevelopment of Campbelltown Hospital. These early works include the expansion of parking – around 300 new spaces and a road linking mental health services across the campus.

There has been a good response to the Health Impact Assessment being undertaken as part of the redevelopment. Surveys addressing the impact of the redevelopment on the local community have been sent and focus groups held with local council, the private hospital, community representatives, Aboriginal liaison and the Hospital’s neighbours.

For more information visit:


**Aboriginal Healthwise**

Sixty Aboriginal school students from across the District attended the fifth annual Aboriginal Healthwise careers showcase at Airds.

![An impression of the new Hospital building.](image)

**Campaign boosts immunisations in Macarthur**

The District is running an extensive information and immunisation campaign following an unusually high number of measles cases in Macarthur recently.

Around 60 people have so far been diagnosed with measles, many of them school-aged students of Pacific Islander descent.

The campaign has included free immunisation programs for selected local high schools and information and visits to local Pacific Islander church groups. The District also provided additional health information through a comprehensive media campaign that saw coverage in ethnic, local and metropolitan media outlets.

Dr Conaty said so far 1,049 school children have been immunised and healthcare providers alerted to the importance of recognising measles and providing specific and timely diagnosis. The District was also able to raise awareness through its new facebook pages.
Breastfeeding anniversary

Last month marked the 20th anniversary of World Breastfeeding Week. The theme Understanding the past – planning the future highlights the advances in breastfeeding practice over the years and the next steps in continuing to help new mothers breastfeed their babies.

Cathy Pratt, SWS LHD Lactation Clinical Nurse Specialist said breastfeeding had come a long way over the past few decades.

“In the 1950s babies were kept in a nursery and brought to the mother for a short bottle feed before being taken away again. Women had little exposure to breastfeeding in hospital,” Ms Pratt said.

“One of the major breastfeeding advances we’ve had is skin-to-skin contact - placing the newborn baby bare-chested against the mother’s bare chest within the first hour of birth. “One of the next steps to improve breastfeeding rates is promoting skin-to-skin contact with babies born by caesarean section.”

New multi-storey opens

The new staff multi-storey car park has opened on the eastern campus of Liverpool Hospital.

Staff who park on the eastern campus have been temporarily relocated to the multi-storey to enable upgrades to the outdoor parking areas.

These upgrades include the creation of new walkways, additional lighting, storm drains, concreting of surfaces and individual parking bays.

This parking arrangement will remain until completion of the outside works, scheduled for Monday 26 November.

At the completion of the outdoor works, normal parking arrangements will be reinstated until permanent parking allocations have been finalised.

The new car park will provide an additional 850 staff parking spaces. It is expected that all staff on the waiting list for parking will be allocated a permanent spot either in the new multi-storey or open air car parks when the works have been completed.

For more information email the Redevelopment team LHRedevelopment@sswhs.nsw.gov.au

Mayoral donation

Bankstown Mayor Khal Asfour presented Bankstown Hospital’s Paediatric Unit with a cheque for more than $86,000 – proceeds from the Mayoral Charity Dinner.

The Unit will purchase new equipment to further enhance patient care and allow sicker children to be monitored in the Paediatric Unit, rather than the Emergency Department.

Men’s support group

The HUB Community Health Centre in Miller runs a free Men’s Support Group every Monday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

The group provides a supportive and confidential space for men to make friends, talk, access health services, play pool and meet others over a cuppa.

Kid’s appeal begins

Woolies has pledged to raise $30,000 for Bowral Hospital’s Children’s Ward as part of the Woolworths Fresh Food Kids Hospital Appeal.

Stores will hold fundraising events including sausage sizzles, lamington drives, trivia nights and mufti days during September to raise funds for a new state-of-the-art neonatal resuscitation trolley.

Touch football gala day

A touch football gala day is being held on Sunday 28 October at Kayess Park in Minto.

Registration is $20 with proceeds going to the Liverpool Hospital Brain Tumour Support Group.

To register visit: www.johnmaxwellmemorial.webs.com or email s_borg57@bigpond.net.au