

# DISTRICT NEWS

October 2016

## SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT *Leading care, healthier communities*

### Partners in a healthy future

A great partnership between South Western Sydney Local Health District and the Ingham Institute has been formed that will progress innovative and ground-breaking advances in medical science.

The new partnership agreement will see medical researchers continue working hand-in-hand with hospitals in Liverpool, Campbelltown, Bankstown, Fairfield, Bowral and health services across the District.

Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said the agreement ensured the world class research being undertaken in south western Sydney continued well into the future.

"More than 200 clinical trials to find new ways to treat major health issues are currently underway in this Health District, and the Ingham Institute is involved in most of them," she said.

Innovative technology pioneered in south western Sydney includes the development of an MRI-Linac, an extraordinary weapon against cancer and the first in the southern



hemisphere. Liverpool Hospital and Ingham are also home to the Window To Hope suicide-prevention program for victims of serious head injuries.

This truly innovative program has just been adopted by the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

"The partnership is something we hope our community will be excited about and proud of, with the collaboration having benefits not only for those experiencing ill-health today, but those in the future," said Ingham Institute Board Chairman, Terry Goldacre.

### Health Beyond: Research and innovation on show



Staff from across the District will highlight their ground-breaking projects at the free Health Beyond Research and Innovation Showcase being held at Liverpool Catholic Club on 18 and 19 October. SWSLHD Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said the projects showcased are revolutionising healthcare in south western Sydney and internationally. "Having a world-class research institute like the Ingham Institute on the doorstep of our hospitals allows staff to partner in hundreds of projects and clinical trials,"

Ms Larkin said.

"The showcase promises to be an exciting and informative event featuring TED talks, three-minute thesis competition, a debate, open space technology, school science week presentations, information stalls and speed networking. "We'll also be unveiling the latest technology in robotic training and surgery, an Australian first," she said. To register for Health Beyond visit [www.inghaminstitute.org.au](http://www.inghaminstitute.org.au).



Health  
South Western Sydney  
Local Health District



To submit a story contact the Media Unit on 8738 6848 or [swsmedia@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:swsmedia@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)

# Message from the Chair



*Phil Harris, Board Chairman*

This month the Consumer and Community Participation network will hold its 10th annual conference.

Consumer and community representatives play an important role in our health service and I look forward to sharing this special day with them.

This year the District has partnered with our local CALD community to debunk some of the myths around organ and tissue

donation. A Donate Life Arabic DVD will be launched at the CCP conference. We hope this DVD will encourage the local Arabic community to have discussions about organ and tissue donation with their family and friends.

Congratulations to all the entrants in the 2016 Quality Awards. Staff across the District are involved in great projects to further enhance quality and safety and it was wonderful to see these highlighted during the sixth annual Patient Safety Seminar.

The Board is pleased to note the work being undertaken locally on the Government's NSW Health & Arts Framework.

A group of creative minds from across SWSLHD, Western Sydney University and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre have partnered with Sydney artists to form the South Western Sydney Health and Arts Group.

The Group will develop a SWS Health and Arts Model to improve the health of the community by integrating art into the design and delivery of health services and public health messages.

Finally, the Academic Health Science Partnership continues to build momentum with 27 applications for clinical streams received. It's wonderful to see that SWSLHD is a key collaborator in many of these streams.

**SWSLHD**  
**Annual Public Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday 10 November 2016  
**Time:** 2pm  
**Venue:** Karitane Conference Centre  
 138-150 The Horsley Drive, Carramar  
**RSVP:** 8738 6848 or  
[swsmedia@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:swsmedia@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)

## A win for *wellbeing*



**Barry Taylor and NSW Deputy Commissioner for Mental Health Faye Jackson at the launch of the Wellbeing Collaboration.**

Barry Taylor – the SWSLHD staff member behind the innovative and powerful South Western Sydney Wellbeing Collaboration - has been awarded the NSW Mental Health Commissioner's Community Champion Award.

Barry, who is a Health Promotion Officer for Mental Wellbeing, received the award for his work establishing the Wellbeing Collaboration and the Five Ways to Wellbeing South Western Sydney initiative.

Each year, the Mental Health Commission of NSW partners with WayAhead to present the Community Champion Award, which recognises individuals or grassroots organisations who have made an outstanding contribution to mental health and wellbeing in their communities.

## Women have their say



Bankstown Women were invited to have their say at a forum at Bankstown Women's Health Centre in September. The forum included a moving address by 2016 Premier's Women of the Year award winner Jennifer Armstrong. Ms Armstrong spoke about her charity, the Beauty Bank, which collects toiletries and other beauty products for women experiencing domestic and family violence.

The day also included cultural entertainment and the opportunity for women to have their say about the Women's Health Centre.

# Pride of Australia



Congratulations to McGrath Foundation breast care nurse Pharmila Sapkota who has been nominated for a Pride Of Australia Award. She started with SWSLHD 15 months ago and has since helped 470 of our patients. If you'd like to nominate one of our staff members, visit [www.prideofaustralia.com.au](http://www.prideofaustralia.com.au)

## Research scholarship



Congratulations to Liverpool Hospital physiotherapist Bernadette Brady who has been awarded one of Australia's most prestigious annual postgraduate scholarships; the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Research Scholarship in the Allied Health Sciences.

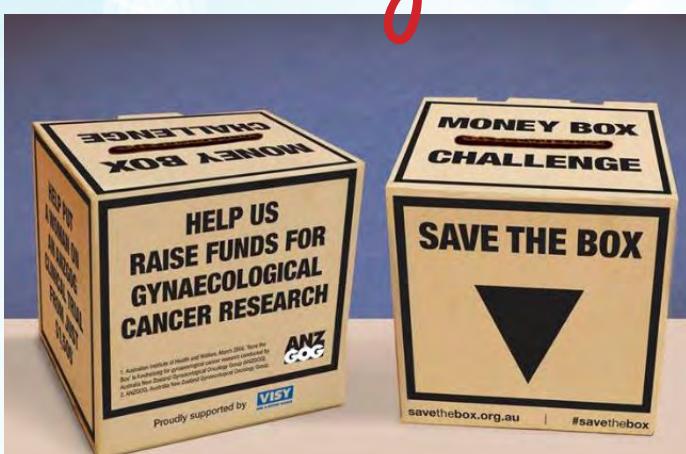
## NSW nursing awards



Evan Alexandrou, Liverpool Hospital Clinical Nurse Consultant and researcher at Western Sydney University, has taken home the award for Excellence in Innovation and Research for his contribution to health at the recent 2016 NSW Health Excellence in Nursing & Midwifery Awards.

Mr Alexandrou said he was proud of his work as the initiator and chief investigator of the One Million Global Catheters study. "I'm excited to have contributed to an innovative project which showed true collaboration with clinicians and researchers across the globe who all have the aim of improving patient outcomes, not just in Australia but around the world," he said.

## Community corner



ANZGOG (Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncological Group) have kick started the Save the Box campaign to raise awareness of the importance of clinical trials and the need to improve survival outcomes for women living with gynaecological cancer in Australia.

Joining the campaign is Dr Diana Adams, Medical Oncology Senior Staff Specialist at **Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre**, who said virtually every improvement in cancer survival has been on the back of clinical trials.

"There are seven types of gynaecological cancers and Save the Box aims to raise funds for much needed research," she said. For more info or to get involved visit [www.savethebox.org.au](http://www.savethebox.org.au).



Children in the Macarthur region will benefit from the generosity of local businesses and tradies, who donated their time and money to build a charity house for the **Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation**. The Fairmont Homes house at Oran Park was auctioned off recently and raised over \$800,000 for the local charity.



A special thank you to **The Eggtober Foundation** and guests who dined and danced at the Purple Tie Charity Event recently to help raise funds for the Liverpool Hospital gynaecological cancer unit. With their support, \$200,000 was raised toward research initiatives and services that will enhance the care of patients.

# Congratulations 2016 Quality Award winners



Cancer Services received the Translational Research award for Safer Radiotherapy in Translation.



Bankstown Hospital received the Excellence in Provision of Non Acute/ Sub Acute Care award for Chronic and Complex Care program.



Bankstown Hospital received the Patient and Carers as Partners award for Know your Meds - Empowering Patients to Take Charge.



Bowral & District Hospital received the Integrated Health Care award for their Child and Adolescent Mental Health Liaison Nurse.



Campbelltown Hospital received the Improvement in Patient Safety award for Improving Door to Needle Time of Stroke Thrombolysis.



Fairfield Hospital received the Collaboration – Working as a Team award for Equality in Access for the CALD Community.



Liverpool Hospital received the Enhancing Patient Experience Through Arts award for Reflected Legacy Palliative Care Program.



Oral Health Services received the Reducing Healthcare Associated Infections Award for a Hand Hygiene Moments for Dental Assistants' Resource.



Primary and Community Health received the Excellence in Provision of Care and Service to Aboriginal Clients award for Tharawal Preschool .

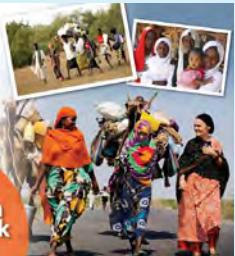
## Workplace Giving Day

We have hit a record high participation rate in our Workplace Giving Program with a total of 2,731 memberships for SWSLHD. Keep your eye out for exciting activities and events during WPG week beginning **Monday 24 October** and if you are not already a member head to the WPG page on the intranet to join now!

### What is Work Place Giving?

The Work Place Giving program (WPG) is an ongoing donation of **just \$1 each week** out of your salary for charitable health-related projects.

Only  
**\$1** each week



## R U OK day

Staff at Liverpool Hospital marked R U OK day by wearing yellow and black and handing out fairy floss as a reminder to check in on friends, family and even the person next to you on the train and ask R U OK?

If you or someone you know needs help, call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or visit your GP.



## Retirement farewell

Last month we farewelled Professor Rhonda Griffiths. Prof Griffiths has made a substantial contribution to south western Sydney in the areas of research, teaching and education and clinical practice.

Congratulations on a wonderful career and good luck in your retirement.

