Liverpool Hospital has hosted a comprehensive robotic surgery training program specifically aimed at surgical and nursing trainees, a first for the Australasian region. Professor Les Bokey, Director of Surgery and Research, South Western Sydney Local Health District, said the three-day training event also included introductory training using the Mimic robotic simulator.

“Robotic surgery is the next frontier in surgery and Liverpool Hospital was the first public hospital in Australia to have the Robot Simulation Training Mimic System and the Dual Console da Vinci Xi Clinical Robot,” he said.

“We have led the way in giving our surgeons the tools to perform cutting-edge robotic surgery, and now we are leading the way in providing this inaugural training program.”

Professor Bokey said the program was specifically aimed at trainees in urology, gynaecology, colorectal, general and head and neck surgery.

The program included lectures, simulation exercises on the Mimic system and live surgery demonstrations conducted by Liverpool Hospital robotic surgeons, which were live streamed to a lecture hall from the operating theatres.

Professor Bokey said previously Australian doctors wanting to learn these skills had to travel to the United States, South Korea or China.

**NAIDOC week celebrations**

South Western Sydney Local Health District recognised the contributions of generations of Aboriginal women at NAIDOC Week events across the District. At Liverpool Hospital, Aboriginal Health staff spoke about the Aboriginal women who had inspired them and launched an online book featuring their stories.

“To be able to acknowledge these women publically is very important as it draws attention to the unsung heroes in our communities,” Karen Beetson, Deputy Director, Aboriginal Health said. “These are the women who have raised us, cared for us and educated us for generations and we owe them everything.”

Staff at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital also celebrated NAIDOC Week and paid tribute to the work of the Aboriginal Health staff, who have built strong partnerships with Aboriginal communities in south western Sydney. At Campbelltown Hospital, staff wore a T-shirt specially designed by staff member Randall Green and attended community events celebrating Aboriginal culture. Ms Beetson said this year’s NAIDOC theme, *Because of her we can*, had resonated with staff at the District.
Message from the Chair

Our health district recently signed an historic agreement to mark a new era of collaboration and cooperation with one of our key neighbours in health.

I was pleased to witness the signing of the milestone Strategic Partnership Agreement between the South Western Sydney and Western Sydney Local Health Districts, which provides a framework on how we can work together to further enhance the health care in our booming regions.

The districts’ first combined board meeting was a great success and I am confident our future collaborations and advocacy will bring great benefits to the communities we serve.

The South Western Sydney Local Health District has demonstrated again that it is an international leader in innovation after Liverpool Hospital hosted the first robotic surgery training seminar in Australasia in July. The three-day seminar for surgical and nursing trainees showcased the groundbreaking technology of the Mimic Robotic Simulator and the Dual Console Da Vinci XI Clinical Robot.

I congratulate the organisers of the seminar on their efforts to highlight robotic surgery as a key part of clinical care both now and in the future.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the Fairfield Hospital staff who have won a national competition in kangaroo care, which is skin-to-skin contact with a new baby and its parent.

Fairfield Hospital achieved the most kangaroo care minutes of any hospital in the nation over a two-week period.

Well done as well to a group of Liverpool Hospital’s second year doctors who have won the NSW Junior Doctors Conference Medical Challenge.

Finally I would to thank all our staff across our hospitals and services for their efforts in preparing for the flu season.

While the flu season has not been as severe as this time last year, I am confident we are fully prepared to cope with any influx of cases.

Kangaroo care victory

Fairfield Hospital staff have claimed the Miracle Babies Kangaroo-a-thon title, with the hospital achieving the highest number of kangaroo care minutes in a competition across the country.

Kangaroo care is skin-to-skin contact between a new baby and its parent, usually on the parent’s chest, and has been shown to help stabilise a baby’s heart rate, promote breast feeding and enhance bonding between a parent and baby.

The aim of the kangaroo-a-thon was to encourage neonatal intensive care units and special care nurseries around Australia to actively promote kangaroo care during a two-week period in May.

Fairfield Hospital achieved the highest number of kangaroo care minutes per baby across the 14-day period, with babies receiving on average 239.14 minutes with their parents.

“I’m proud of what we have achieved and we will continue to promote kangaroo care with our new parents.” Fairfield Hospital Maternity Manager, Women’s Health and Paediatrics, Stephanie Nunn said. Fellow South Western Sydney Local Health District Hospital Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital also did very well, finishing in second place.

Planning award

The Liverpool Innovation Precinct received a Planning for Jobs and Skills Award commendation at the 2018 Greater Sydney Planning Awards. The awards acknowledge excellence in planning and recognise outstanding collaborative, innovative and bold initiatives that deliver benefits to communities, economies and the environment.

The commendation recognised the Liverpool Innovation Precinct as a well developed and positive partnership built on collaboration. It was described as a refreshing approach to pooling resources and responding to the need for an innovative way of bringing together key stakeholders. The awards ceremony at the Australian Museum was presented by the Minister for Planning and Housing, Anthony Roberts, and Greater Sydney Commission Chief Commissioner Lucy Turnbull AO.
Doctors from Liverpool Hospital are donating a Nerve Conduction Study machine to Nigeria. Visiting Medical Officer Dr Adeniyi Borire is from Nigeria and will take the machine to the African nation.

“These machines are few and far between in Nigeria so we are excited to be able to provide clinicians there with this highly specialised piece of equipment,” said Dr Borire. Neurologists use the machine to conduct tests that determine how well a patient’s nerves are functioning and whether there is any nerve damage. The machine has been used in Liverpool Hospital and will be serviced before it’s donated.

A huge thank you to the Royal Freemasons’ Benevolent Institution for its generous donation of 10 wheelchairs to Bowral & District Hospital. The chairs will be available for patients who are being discharged from hospital but will require a wheelchair at home while they continue their recovery. Community palliative care patients will also benefit from the new chairs.
Macarthur paediatric service

Campbelltown Hospital has unveiled a range of enhanced services for its new paediatric centre, giving Macarthur children access to world class health care close to home. As part of the NSW Government’s $632 million stage two redevelopment of the hospital, the number of paediatric beds will almost triple from 22 to 60. Other highlights include the addition of close observation beds for seriously ill children and the expansion of paediatric surgical services, reducing the need for transfers to other hospitals. Camden and Campbelltown Hospitals General Manager Alison Derrett said it was the start of a new era in children’s health care for the Macarthur region.

“Paediatric surgery, such as the removal of appendix and the repair of hernias, will now be available locally. Bone and brain scans and nuclear medicine will also be available at the hospital, meaning families will no longer have to travel to other hospitals for these services,” she said.

The redeveloped paediatric service will also include:

- A brand new rehabilitation outpatient clinic with specialised therapy teams to treat children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy and developmental conditions
- New dental services to treat children with complex dental conditions and infections
- New facilities such as 12 new consulting rooms, eight assessment rooms and a new allied health gymnasium and playroom.

Still time to donate

To mark the end of a month of no alcohol, the team at Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre celebrated by dunking their bosses. One of those who raised money for his own dunking is Professor Geoff Delaney, District Cancer Services Director. “We’ve been taking part in Dry July since 2011 and every year we look for a fun way to end the month,” he said.

“I’m not sure if it was a good thing or a bad thing, but the staff embraced the idea of dunking us into a huge tank of water.” Professor Delaney said they were prepared to take the plunge for such a good cause. “Dry July funds are used to provide the little extras for cancer patients to make their time at the hospital as comfortable as possible. Undergoing cancer treatment can be challenging and we know patients can withstand it better and recover faster if they are in a good frame of mind,” he said. “Comfort items like music, portable DVD players, cheerful light boxes and curtains, television and decorations help to take the patient’s mind off their treatment and give them something to do.” Donations can still be made until the end of August. To donate to the Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre team members visit www.dryjuly.com/teams/liverpool-cancer-therapy-centre or www.dryjuly.com/users/josephine-chow.

Fitness Passport

South Western Sydney Local Health District has joined the Fitness Passport Program, which is a corporate health and fitness program that allows members access to a wide range of local health and fitness facilities. Register to be part of the program and get unlimited access to over 500 gyms and pools across the state! To register or to see a list of facilities included in the program visit www.fitnesspassport.com.au

For enquiries email SWSLHD@fitnesspassport.com.au

My Health Record

By the end of 2018 all Australians will have a My Health Record. It will bring all your electronic health records together into the one place and with your permission, hospitals, GPs, specialists and pharmacists will be able to access your My Health Record. You can go online to view and control who sees your health information. If you choose not to have a My Health Record, there is a three-month opt out period from 16 July to 15 October. For more info visit: bit.ly/MHRexplained.

FACS partnership

The District has signed an MOU with the Department of Family and Community Services and the Land and Housing Corporation as part of their Housing and Health Partnership. The memorandum is aimed at improving the social and health outcomes of south western Sydney residents affected by housing relocation and renewal and to boost housing quality. The important strategic partnership will also develop innovative approaches with social housing tenants to improve their health and access to health.