Robotic surgery advances, research, and innovation aimed at making our community the healthiest it can be are among the key priorities of the South Western Sydney Local Health District’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

The Plan, officially launched on 26 February, is the District’s road map to meet the healthcare needs of the diverse and booming population for the next four years. Government, business leaders, Ministry of Health officials, key stakeholders, community representatives and staff were among almost 200 guests at the networking event to launch the Plan at the new and iconic William Inglis Hotel, Warwick Farm.

The honourable Chris Patterson, State Member for Camden and Government Whip, officially launched the Plan, pledging the New South Wales Government’s commitment to south western Sydney’s healthcare now and into the future.

Highlights of the event included an inspirational address by Junior Medical Officer Pierre Goorkiz, who grew up in the Liverpool area and is now starting his internship at Liverpool Hospital.

Ms Amanda Larkin, Chief Executive, South Western Sydney Local Health District, said she was looking forward to working together with the New South Wales Government, the community and staff to bring the Plan’s objectives to fruition.

“The District has a big four years ahead of it, and I am excited to see how the implementation of the Strategic Plan will benefit the people of our region and our staff,” Ms Larkin said.

“The Plan builds on the District’s great tradition of innovation to meet the healthcare needs of our community and identifies our commitment to remaining among the best healthcare providers in the world.”

The Plan features six important strategic directions and sets out the District’s vision on how it will deliver safe, quality care to its patients, support a healthier community, work in partnership with the community and build a health care system for the future. There is also a focus on research and teaching, and it sets out how it supports its greatest asset, which is each and every staff member.

Visit the SWSLHD website for more information.
Message from the Chief Executive

Last month we achieved a key milestone, launching the District’s 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. The District is forging ahead towards our vision of Leading care, healthier communities with the launch of this plan, and it outlines our highest priorities over the next four years. The Plan ensures we focus our resources in areas where we can achieve the greatest value in terms of the way we prevent illness and how we provide health care. The future holds endless opportunities for all staff across every hospital and service, and I encourage everyone to visit the website to watch the Strategic Plan video and read the plan. February was a busy month across our facilities with more than 103 new doctors, 256 nurses, 18 midwives, two speech pathologists, one occupation therapist and three Graduate health Management Trainees commencing their careers in the south west. I would like to welcome this year’s cohort of graduates and I wish them well during their time with us.

Finally, March is an important month as we mark International Women’s Day. The District is proud to have so many skilled women serving as strong role models. There are a number of events taking place to celebrate, including a women’s leadership forum at Liverpool Hospital and a special event at Campbelltown Hospital where local Macarthur hero Lauren Rowe will be sharing her journey. I hope many of you have the opportunity to take part in celebrations to mark this important day.

My Experience Matters

A revolutionary way of collecting feedback from patients about their hospital and treatment experience - the My Experience Matters Survey - is being rolled out across the District. Apple Health CEO Richard Taggart visited Liverpool Hospital recently, along with Energesse CEO Avi Ratnanesan, to see the survey in action. The survey provides individual units and departments with real-time feedback from patients about their experience using iPads. This will enable managers and key staff to access reports to help them understand what is working well for patients and carers and areas where the patient experience could be improved. The survey will be implemented in other departments and hospitals in the future and a Staff My Experience Matters survey will be developed later in the year.

New graduates come on board

The District recently welcomed three new graduates as part of it’s Graduate Health Management Program (GHMP). The Program aims to produce innovative and successful health managers by offering a complete package of training, education and career development. As part of the two-year program, each trainee undertakes a number of placements in different areas across the District. Ms Brittany Knox said she applied for the program as she has lived in south western Sydney her whole life. “I have a passion for the people we work for in the South Western Sydney Local Health District. I also have an interest in managerial roles within health and how they have the ability to change processes and services for the better,” she said.
Welcome graduate doctors

More than 100 new doctors have begun the first phase of their careers, joining the District as Junior Medical Doctors. Throughout the year, 46 interns will work at Bankstown-Lidcombe and Campbelltown Hospitals and 57 will work between Liverpool and Fairfield Hospitals in a variety of disciplines.

Ms Amanda Larkin, South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive, welcomed the new doctors and encouraged them to make the most of every opportunity. “Our hospitals provide world class training grounds for young doctors and we have some of the best clinicians in Australia who are keen to share their knowledge with the next generation,” she said.

Ms Larkin also said cutting-edge treatments and research, like robotic surgery and the advancements made possible by the Molecular Science Cyclotron Facility, were drawcards for doctors to start their careers at South Western Sydney Local Health District.

Scholarship awarded

Former Chevalier College student Katherine Abbey has been awarded this year’s Bowral & District Hospital Centenary Scholarship. The Scholarship supports students intending to study medicine or nursing at university and Ms Abbey will be studying a Bachelor of Nursing followed by a Bachelor of Midwifery at Canberra University.

Chief Executive Amanda Larkin, Bowral & District Hospital General Manager Joel Bardsley and SWSLHD Director of Operations Clair Ramsden were on hand to congratulate Ms Abbey.

Fairfield Hospital recently welcomed a donation from Wetherill Park business Thor Specialties. The money will be used to purchase four Connex vital signs monitors with mobile accessory cable management stands. The monitors and stands cost $4,207 each. Thank you very much Thor Specialties!

A big thank you to the Southern Districts Raiders Football Club who announced it will collect gold coin donations at their games every weekend to raise money for Fairfield Hospital's paediatric department. Two signed football jerseys were also donated and will be auctioned to raise further funds for the hospital.

Community Corner
Quick News

International Women’s Day

They are talented, hard-working, caring and passionate. They may be a junior nurse starting her career, a highly-skilled medical specialist, a creative chef or a senior manager. These inspirational staff members represent the women of the South Western Sydney Local Health District, which is celebrating the contributions of its female workforce and volunteers on International Women’s Day on Thursday 8 March. Supporting this year’s theme #PressforProgress, the Health District is proud to be recognising the achievements of its female staff with events including a Women’s Leadership Forum.

Ms Amanda Larkin, Chief Executive, congratulated the dedicated women of the District for their efforts across a variety of roles. “Our District is fortunate to have so many capable and talented women who each day dedicate themselves to excellence in their job,” Ms Larkin said. “International Women’s Day is an opportunity for the District to say thank you for your efforts and to encourage our women to achieve their best,” she said.

eMR2 feedback survey

Staff are being encouraged to complete a 10-question survey in response to the planned eMR2 downtime over the weekend of 17-18 February. ICT is keen to hear feedback from staff who worked during the downtime. The survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/5GHCF3X.

Linen Services trial

Nurses and Linen Services staff will trial protective wear and a new triple bagging system to handle linen indirectly affected by cytotoxic drugs under new standards designed to enhance safety. A working party including District work, health and safety professionals, infection control nurses and NUMs will oversee the trial. A video is available on the Linen Services pages of the HealthShare NSW intranet http://intranet.hss.health.nsw.gov.au/linen

Save the date

The Health Beyond Research and Innovation Showcase 2018 will be held on June 6 and 7 at the new William Inglis Hotel, Warwick Farm. The theme for this year’s Showcase is “Building better healthcare for the future”. Registrations for the Showcase and abstract submissions will open soon and submissions will close on Friday, 13 April. For more information visit www.healthbeyondshowcase.org.au.

Jo Masters, Nurse Unit Manager Ambulatory Care, at Bankstown Hospital since 1980

Lucy Nair, Director of Pharmacy, Bankstown Hospital

Dr Millie Holbeck, Registered Medical Officer, born and working at Campbelltown Hospital

Joyce Lau, Clinical Information and Support Manager, Bankstown Hospital

Elizabeth Winner, volunteer for 31 years, Liverpool Hospital

Janelle Hoole, Supply Manager, Campbelltown Hospital

Imelda de Guzman, Dialysis Access Co-ordinator, Liverpool Hospital

Sue Joskovic, Coding Manager, Liverpool Hospital

Nikki Linolli, Deputy Manager of Dietetics and Student Educator, Campbelltown Hospital

Sue Joskovic, Coding Manager, Liverpool Hospital

Dr Millie Holbeck, Registered Medical Officer, born and working at Campbelltown Hospital

Janelle Hoole, Supply Manager, Campbelltown Hospital

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