Nurses help donate the ultimate gift

With kindness, gentleness and compassion during the most difficult of times donation specialist nurses help families give the gift of life.

Clinical Nurse Consultants for organ and tissue donation, Venessa Sposari and Vanessa Palmer, provide information and support to help families through the organ donation process after the death of a loved one.

The specially trained nurses attended information and donor registration stalls across south western Sydney to raise awareness of the need for organ and tissue donation during DonateLife Week from 29 July to 5 August.

“DonateLife Week is an opportunity for us to raise awareness in the community about the importance of organ donation,” said Ms Sposari.

Ms Palmer said educating community members and health professionals about organ donation as well as assisting bereaved families and friends, were important parts of her role.

“It is a special privilege to help support the families, both during and after the donation,” Ms Palmer said.

“We follow up with the families in the days after the death of their loved one and post donation and stay in contact.”

Ms Sposari said she always wanted to be in a profession focussed on helping people and changing lives.

“On my last clinical placement for my degree I was placed in the intensive care unit at Liverpool Hospital and from that point onwards I knew I wanted to work in intensive care and develop my career from there,” she said.

Both nurses encouraged community members to have conversations with their loved ones about organ donation and register with the Organ and Tissue Authority as donors.

To register visit www.donatelife.gov.au

Clinical Nurse Consultants for Organ and Tissue Donation Vanessa Palmer (top) and Venessa Sposari (inset)

New Academic Units established

Two new research units have been funded under the prestigious Academic Unit program, furthering South Western Sydney Local Health District’s status as an international hub of medical innovation. The new research units - Women’s Health Initiative Translational Unit, (Professor Annemarie Hennessy), and South West Institute for Limb Preservation and Woundcare, Liverpool Hospital (Dr Matthew Malone) - will receive $2.25 million over five years. The funding will assist the units to build expert teams who will conduct clinical trials, initiate research, deliver cutting-edge care and ultimately revolutionise health outcomes. In addition, two projects - BestSTART-SW (System Transformation and Research Translation - South West Sydney) Children, Young People and Families health research translation unit, Liverpool Hospital (Professor Valsamma Eapen), and Gut and the Microbiome: Role in Health and Disease, Liverpool Hospital (Associate Professor Susan Connor) - have been recognised with enhancement funds to further develop their research and will receive $1.05 million to assist the two already established units to continue their research.

Dr Matthew Malone, Liverpool Hospital High Risk Clinic

To submit a story contact the Strategic Communications and Media Unit on 8738 6848 or SWSLHD-Communications@health.nsw.gov.au
Congratulations to the teams who have been awarded funding as part of the Academic Unit Program. The prestigious program, established in 2015, addresses the District’s most important health issues and inspires and motivates staff to achieve ground-breaking health outcomes.

It is inspiring to see the continuing high standard of research in south western Sydney and I look forward to seeing these units further develop as successful Academic Units.

It has been fantastic to see DonateLife Week being highlighted across the District. I am particularly proud that we have two dedicated donation nurse specialists to not only help families give the gift of life, but also to raise awareness of the importance of organ donation.

According to the Organ and Tissue Authority there are more than 1400 people across Australia on waiting lists for a life-saving or life-transforming transplant, so we should be encouraging the community to have those important conversations about organ and tissue donation.

It is also great to see we have our first prostate cancer specialist nurse join our District. These specialist nurses provide patients and carers with someone they can talk to and receive important and practical information and support.

South Western Sydney Local Health District is committed to recognising excellence and innovation and sharing knowledge, which is why each year we hold the Patient Safety Seminar and Quality Awards.

The awards are a way of acknowledging the contribution of both clinical and non-clinical staff in delivering high quality and safe care to the hundreds of patients we see each day.

These annual awards are also used to identify potential submissions for the NSW Health Awards so I encourage you all to go along to the event and show your support.

**New volunteer service**

A Buddhist nun and a retired nurse will be available to support patients nearing the end of life and their loved ones as part of a new palliative care volunteer program at Fairfield Hospital. The hospital is also seeking volunteers to join the new program, particularly representatives from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, to provide patients with culturally appropriate support.

Palliative care volunteer coordinator Ms Arlene Roache said volunteers would receive free specialised training over a six-week period to prepare for their roles. “We are introducing the service to the hospital after staff and community members identified a need for volunteers to provide additional support for palliative care patients,” Ms Roache said.

For more information on the Fairfield Hospital palliative care volunteer program contact Arlene Roache on 8738 9755.

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**SWSLHD Patient Safety Seminar**

**Save the date**

20 September 2018

The seminar will include high profile speakers and the presentation of the SWSLHD Quality Awards and Patient Safety Champion Award.

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For more information on the Fairfield Hospital palliative care volunteer program contact Arlene Roache on 8738 9755.
**New specialist nurse**

South Western Sydney Local Health District welcomed its first prostate cancer specialist nurse, Ms Diana Ngo. Ms Ngo provides prostate cancer patients with an ongoing point of contact and supports and helps them access services both in hospital and in the community after treatment.

“I provide information from diagnosis onwards, including dealing with the effects of treatment and how to get help on any specific issues,” Ms Ngo said. Ms Ngo said she hopes Prostate Cancer Awareness Month this September will raise awareness of the disease and encourage men to talk about their health. “I strongly encourage conversation about issues men may feel uncomfortable discussing such as incontinence, urination and erectile dysfunction,” she said.

“Any man with concerns such as urinary problems or changes should see their GP. Don't let embarrassment stand in your way.”

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia funds the placement of the specialist nurses in partnership with health service providers.

**Share the Dignity**

Bowral & District Hospital maternity unit is helping women affected by homelessness and poverty live with dignity through its support of the Share the Dignity campaign. During the month of August the unit collected donations of sanitary and personal care products for struggling women. Nurse Naomi Gerhard said the donations would assist in restoring the dignity many of us take for granted. “Sadly there are many women who do not have access to sanitary items,” Ms Gerhard said. “This may be because the women are in financial crisis, are homeless, suffering domestic violence or unemployed. “Our maternity unit was very pleased to be able to support this campaign.”

The Share the Dignity organisation conducts Dignity Drives twice a year in April and August when it seeks donations of sanitary pads, tampons and incontinence underwear at community collection points.

For more information visit www.sharethedignity.com.au

**Community Corner**

Revesby Workers Club has generously donated $43,225 to Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital’s maternity ward through its annual Bill Bullard Charity Foundation event. The money raised will be used to purchase a neonatal resuscitaire, also called a Panda, which helps perform hands-free resuscitation on infants. The club fundraises every year through community activities and regularly donates to the hospital. A huge thank you to Revesby Workers Club for its amazing and ongoing support.

Thank you to The Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation for its dedication to the care of children with the donation of a new ultrasound machine to Campbelltown Hospital. The technology will help paediatricians diagnose complex conditions, particularly conditions related to the heart, chest and abdomen. General Manager Alison Derrett said the hospital was grateful for the continued support. “Kids of Macarthur’s commitment and dedication to helping Campbelltown Hospital provide safe and high quality care to the community is incredible,” she said.
My Experience Matters

Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre is one of three services across the District to pilot the My Experience Matters Patient Survey, with great success. The survey was developed to provide real-time information on patient experience to individual units and departments, helping to get a better understanding of patient, consumer, and carer experience. Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre Operations Manager Maree Cain said the weekly feedback report was extremely insightful. “We use the feedback to praise our staff for the good work they do, as well as review areas to improve on,” Ms Cain said. “Feedback is sent via our staff email and proactively used to achieve a stronger focus on person-centred care”. The My Experience Matters Patient Survey is being introduced across the whole District after the successful pilot. For more information on the survey and for all things Transforming Your Experience, check out the TYE Hub on the intranet.

Research Strategy 2023

South Western Sydney Local Health District is embarking on the development of a new Research Strategy to guide the way research and researchers are developed across the District. If you would like more information or to contribute your ideas, please contact the SWSLHD Planning Unit on SWSLHD-AreaServicePl@health.nsw.gov.au

Strategic Communications and Media

The Strategic Communications and Media Department has a new intranet site designed to help staff understand what we do, as well as how we can help promote what’s happening across the District. The intranet site has a range of communication tools and tips including style guides, policies and forms. For more information visit http://swslhd-intranet.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/swslhd/media/

Quick News

Fairfield Hospital celebrated National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day with fun-filled activities including a sausage sizzle, Aboriginal artwork, storytelling, dancing, singing, games and community stalls.

Aboriginal Liaison Officer Ms Katrina Sing said Children’s Day was a time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. “Our children are the centre of our families and the heart of our communities. They are our future and the carriers of our story,” Ms Sing said.

“It is also a day to acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children do not enjoy the same opportunities as most Australians and that we as a health service must stay committed to closing the gap.” The event was a great success with over 80 people attending including local schools. Community sponsors included donations from Woolworths, Big W, Bakers Delight, Kennards Hire and those who donated their time including the Rural Fire Service, Aunty Susan Grant, Kate Leslie, Billy Tompkins and his daughters Dakota and Minnie.

Workplace Giving birthday

October is Workplace Giving month at South West Sydney Local Health District and this year the District is celebrating 10 years of the program! So keep your eye out for celebrations happening around your facility, including talks from Dr Andrew Browning of the Barbara May Foundation. For more information about the program or to sign up, visit the WGP intranet page http://swslhd-intranet.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/SSWAHS/WGP/default.html

Child Protection training

New online child protection training is now available to assist health workers to meet their child protection responsibilities. The training is for ALL Health workers, including staff who have previously completed the former Child Protection eLearning Module on My Health Learning. All staff should complete training by 30 September 2018. Staff working directly with vulnerable children, young people and their families should complete their training as a priority.