

# DISTRICT NEWS

Leading care, healthier communities



Nathaniel Smith (from left), Amanda Larkin, Sam Haddad, Brad Hazzard and Ken Barnett.

## WHAT'S ON

- » **1 April**  
April Falls Day
- » **2 April**  
Good Friday
- » **4 April**  
Easter Sunday
- » **5 April**  
Easter Monday
- » **12 April**  
Ramadan begins
- » **24-30 April**  
World Immunisation Week
- » **25 April**  
Anzac Day
- » **26-30 April**  
Patient Experience Week



**Health**  
South Western Sydney  
Local Health District

## World-class care

Bowral & District Hospital celebrated a new era in its history and care when NSW Health and Medical Research Minister Brad Hazzard declared the new \$68.7 million Clinical Services Building officially open on 8 March.

Member for Wollondilly Nathaniel Smith, South Western Sydney Local Health District Board Chair Sam Haddad, Chief Executive Amanda Larkin, Hospital General Manager Ken Barnett, past and present staff and community members were among the guests at the opening ceremony.

“The new building’s design is amazing - the use of natural light brings the outdoors in and really sets this building apart from others, drawing in elements of the beautiful Southern Highlands landscape,” Ms Larkin said.

“I thank everyone who has been involved in the project – our staff, the capital works and project teams and members of the community.

“The building is absolutely wonderful and continues our proud tradition of providing safe and high-quality care to the people of the Southern Highlands.”

More than 5176 emergency presentations, 155 babies have been born and over 783 surgeries performed since the building opened its doors in December.

Features of the building include an Emergency Department, operating theatres, a maternity ward, birthing suites and adult and paediatric inpatient wards.

Planning is now under way for the hospital’s \$55 million stage two redevelopment.

# Chairman's Message



Mr Sam Haddad, Chairman, South Western Sydney Local Health District

We started 2021 celebrating significant milestones in our Hospital redevelopment projects, including the opening of the new \$68.7 million Bowral & District Hospital clinical services building.

I was incredibly proud to see firsthand how it is providing safe and high-quality care to the people of the Southern Highlands.

At our recent board meeting we heard about the wonderful work being done across our District.

We are working towards a one service across multiple sites model in maternity in order to offer the women of south western Sydney the best possible care, suited to their individual needs.

We also paid tribute to the wonderful Nurse Unit Manager at the Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre Denise Burns who celebrated her 50th year in nursing last year.

This is a theme I keep coming back to - the dedicated people that make up our District.

This month, I would like to particularly thank those who have been involved in setting up and operating the Liverpool Vaccination Hub, the feedback has been tremendous.

The Board and I are continually grateful for all of your efforts.

## Thrive out now!

In the Autumn edition of Thrive, we celebrate the engine room of our hospitals - our non-clinical staff, the vital work they do and their contributions to the safe, high-quality care we provide to our community.

Without these wonderful people our hospitals grind to a halt. They are the quiet achievers of our health care system and we salute them in this edition of Thrive.

You can pick up a copy at your facility or [online](#).



## 60 seconds with...

**Bronwen Blake**

### What is your role?

I am the Clinical Nurse Consultant at the NSW Refugee Health Service (RHS)



### How did you end up working in this particular field?

I spent a number of years overseas in the humanitarian sector working in complex emergencies and with displaced populations in parts of Africa and the Middle East. My plan on returning to Australia was to work with refugees and in 2012 I was lucky enough to get a job at NSW RHS.

### What do you love about your role?

NSW RHS is based in Liverpool but we provide a decentralised service and go to where people are settled. I love meeting interesting, resilient and amazing people daily. I love the advocacy role that we have individually but also as a service. We have a great team. I also love the diversity of my role.

### What is one thing you wish people knew about your role?

I would like people to better understand the vulnerability and also the resilience of people from a refugee background. Take time to try and understand some of the difficulties of accessing health services. Little acts of kindness can make such a difference to people's lives.

## Effective feedback

The Macarthur Supporting NSW Families team have used patient feedback gained from leader patient rounding to make improvements to their service.



They provide care for vulnerable families and have used feedback from families to design an improved handover process when there was a change in care coordinators.

Since the process was implemented, complaints of disruption and stress to the families using the program have dramatically declined.

# Frontline of vaccine rollout

Many of the leaders at the forefront of the District's COVID-19 response are now fully vaccinated after receiving their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at the Liverpool Vaccination Hub on 15 March.

These health heroes, who work in our emergency departments, intensive care units and COVID wards, have been at the frontline of caring for our patients, staff and the community during the pandemic and are continuing to do this important work.

The District's Director of Critical Care, Associate Professor Deepak Bhonagiri (pictured), had the honour of being the first person to be fully vaccinated.

"It's a safe, quick and highly efficient process," he said.



"I also thank my staff for being vaccinated and for continuing to play their part in helping to protect themselves, their patients, families and the community."

The District's Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said the rollout of the second dose of the vaccine was

a major milestone in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'd like to thank all of our wonderful staff for their ongoing efforts as well as everyone who has been involved in planning and setting up the Liverpool Vaccination Hub," she said.

## Creative and inspiring

In celebration of Mardi Gras season, staff and the community were invited to jump in South Western Sydney Local Health District's virtual float.

Users participated by taking a photo with the frame on Facebook and then posting it on the event page.

The results were colourful, creative and inspiring and celebrated the wonderful contribution of our LGBTQ+ staff and our inclusive culture built on compassion and understanding.

Thanks to all who participated, you looked fabulous!



## Leaders in innovation



Professor Les Bokey, the District's Director of Research, and members of the Liverpool Innovation Precinct Steering Committee welcomed the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, Gabrielle Upton MP, to Liverpool to talk about their successful partnership.

The Liverpool Innovation Precinct brings together experts in health, education and research to create a city of innovation in the area.

Committee members from the District, the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, UNSW, Western Sydney University, University of Wollongong, TAFE NSW, Liverpool City Council and the Greater Sydney Commission joined the meeting.

"We are proud to be a founding member of the Liverpool Innovation Precinct, which has an international reputation and is anchored around Liverpool Hospital," Professor Josephine Chow, the District's Director Strategy and Partnerships, said.

# Dedicated women honoured

Six inspiring women from Liverpool Hospital were honoured on International Women's Day and thanked for their dedication to patients and the community.

The District's Chief Executive Amanda Larkin surprised each

woman at her workplace and presented them with a certificate and a purple orchid, the colour representing International Women's Day.

"Our District has a workforce that is 72 per cent women who demonstrate their outstanding

capabilities every day. I am proud of you all," Ms Larkin said.

Congratulations to Ana Roa, Cristina Mejilano, Tia Croft, Assia Bassal, Dr Zinta Harrington and Katrina Smith.



## Reaching out to help

With the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, our staff are working hard to ensure that local culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities receive accurate and helpful information.

Dr Harry Doan, Director of Medical Services at Fairfield Hospital, gave a presentation to Vietnamese community members at a local forum on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination.

"The community and health professionals really appreciated the information regarding the safety of the vaccine, efficacy and rollout phases," he said.



"I am happy to play my part in ensuring the CALD communities receive the information they need."

## New skills in lung care

Congratulations to the registered nurses from Ward 1A at Fairfield Hospital, who recently completed spirometry training.

Spirometry is an important skill which helps monitor lung conditions and can be used to help clients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Well done to all the spirometry champions!



## Contact us

To submit a story, event or provide images contact us on 8738 6848 or email [SWSLHD-communications@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SWSLHD-communications@health.nsw.gov.au). Don't forget to follow us and share our posts on social media@South Western Sydney Local Health District.

