

# DISTRICT NEWS

Leading care, healthier communities



Chief Executive Amanda Larkin (from left), Member for Holsworthy Melanie Gibbons, Campbelltown City Police Area Commander Julian Griffiths, and Member for Macquarie Fields Anoulack Chanthivong.

## CLINIC DETAILS

- » Catherine Park Vaccination Clinic
- » Prairiewood Vaccination Clinic
- » Liverpool Vaccination Clinic
- » South Western Sydney Vaccination Centre
- » Mobile Vaccination Clinics:
  - Chipping Norton Community Centre
  - Wattle Grove Community Centre
  - Community Hall at Lao Cultural Centre, Edensor Park
  - Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre, Miller
  - Michael Clarke Recreation Centre, Carnes Hill
  - Islamic Charity Projects Association, Bankstown

# Vaccination close to home

Thousands of residents have already received their vaccination at the South Western Sydney Vaccination Centre since it opened its doors in Macquarie Fields on 26 July.

The biggest vaccination centre in south western Sydney was converted from a former supermarket into a purpose-built facility with the capacity to vaccinate up to 20,000 people a week.

South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said the new centre was a major achievement in the national vaccination roll-out in the region.

“I thank all of our staff for their hard work in establishing this new

vaccination centre and for their ongoing efforts to vaccinate the community to keep everyone safe,” Ms Larkin said.

Teachers, NSW police officers, former Socceroo Brett Emerton, who grew up in Macquarie Fields, cultural and local government leaders and two local MPs were among the first group to receive their vaccinations at the new centre.

The centre is a vital part of the District’s vaccination strategy which also includes the new Prairiewood Vaccination Clinic, mobile vaccination clinics and a vaccination clinic for the Pasifika community (more details inside).

**More photos: back page**



Health  
South Western Sydney  
Local Health District

# Chairman's Message



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

The phenomenal work you are all doing to keep our community safe as we work to stop the spread of COVID-19 is inspirational and I am so proud of your efforts.

At last month's Board meeting, we heard about your work to protect our community, including screening stations, testing clinics, vaccination opportunities, and how you are communicating these vital messages to multicultural groups.

On behalf of the Board, I express my deep gratitude and admiration for your dedication.

Everything you are doing is contributing to the health and wellbeing of our community.

On August 7, we also celebrated the inaugural National Recognition Day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners.

At our July Board meeting, we voted to strengthen the integration with the District's Aboriginal Health Committee, because we recognise the importance of the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers in providing culturally safe and high quality care to our community.

I hope you all join myself and the Board in celebrating the people working to improve health outcomes for our Aboriginal community.

## Big ideas at showcase

Find out how bright ideas travel from innovation to commercialisation at this month's Health Beyond Research & Innovation Showcase on Wednesday 18 August from 12 noon to 1pm.

The live and online event features three impressive guest speakers, Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research Chief Executive Officer Darryl Harkness (pictured), Liverpool Innovation Precinct Manager Lance Chia and orthopaedic surgeon Dr Nick Hartnell.



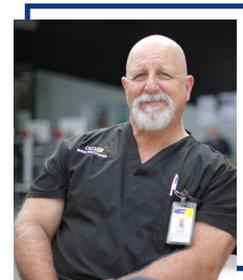
To join the monthly seminar series or to watch a previous event at a time that suits you, visit [www.healthbeyondshowcase.org.au](http://www.healthbeyondshowcase.org.au)

## 60 seconds with...

**Tony Hecimovic**

### What is your role?

Nurse Practitioner Community  
Acute Post Acute Care



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

I was initially a Clinical Nurse Consultant for Acute Care Outreach Services based at Fairfield Hospital, but working in the community. I realised a Nurse Practitioner role would be more effective so I obtained the required qualifications and the rest is history

I am currently working as one of the clinical leads within the COVID-19 response team, which contacts COVID-positive patients daily to assess their physical, mental and social status. Our aim is to facilitate a safe environment for COVID-positive patients to remain at home or enable a safe transfer to hospital.

### What do you love about your role?

The ability to work outside of the hospital environment and to problem solve. Also the team I work with, which makes my work that much easier and enjoyable.

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

The amount of daily variation you encounter everyday plus how fulfilling it is to be able to keep people out of hospital while still providing hospital-based treatments.

## Supporting staff

Wellness rounding is the main focus for Transforming Your Experience coaches as they support teams across the District during the pandemic.

TYE Director Natalie Wilson said where face-to-face rounding is not possible, coaches are picking up the phones to talk to staff about their wellbeing.



"It's important that we care for the carers. Our staff are doing their utmost to look after our community in this difficult time - it's important that we also look after our staff," Ms Wilson said.

# Increasing vaccination opportunities

Walk-in vaccination clinics are now available to residents across Liverpool, Fairfield, Bankstown and Catherine Park.

Virtual Care Manager Sally Walker is leading a team taking a mobile clinic to a range of community locations.

“Offering our community opportunities to get vaccinated and help protect themselves, their loved ones and families is so important,” Ms Walker said.

“We are visiting community centres and connecting with local cultural groups to spread the word,”

“The mobile vaccination clinics are a great opportunity for residents from across south western Sydney who are aged 18 and over to walk-in and get their vaccinations.”



The Pasifika community is also invited to attend a walk-in clinic at Catherine Park Community Centre, 55 Catherine Park Drive, Catherine Park, on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Cultural support workers are also available.

The Prairiewood clinic at 194-222 Restwell Road, is open every day. Partnering with a private operator, a team from the District supported the opening of a clinic in the ballroom at Bankstown Sports Club.

## Vaccine advocates

Staff who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 are happy to advocate to friends and family to also get vaccinated, according to a South Western Sydney Local Health District study.

Principal Investigator Professor Josephine Chow (pictured), the District Director Strategy and Partnerships and Deputy Director of Research, said the results of the study were important to inform policy and communications.

“Understanding the perceptions which motivate people to receive a vaccine is crucial to a successful vaccine roll-out and to protecting the south western Sydney community,” Professor Chow said.

More than 6000 health workers participated in the study at the Liverpool Vaccination Clinic from March to June 2021.

The study, which did not seek any grant funding, was conducted by a team of passionate multidisciplinary researchers at SWSLHD and the Liverpool Vaccination Hub.



## 100,000th milestone

A remarkable milestone in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in south western Sydney has been reached with the 100,000th dose of the Pfizer vaccine delivered in July.

Smithfield electrical engineer Nihad Malih became the 100,000th person to be vaccinated by the District since the Liverpool Vaccination Clinic opened in February this year.

District COVID-19 Controller Sonia Marshall (pictured right) said all staff deserved the highest praise for achieving this wonderful milestone and for their dedication to administering the vaccine and to keeping the community safe.

“To reach the 100,000th dose requires a terrific team effort from staff from across the District, including our nursing, medical and pharmacy staff,” Ms Marshall said.



# Vaccination Centre to serve south western Sydney

It took a little more than a month and a tremendous amount of hard work to turn the shell of a Coles supermarket into the South Western Sydney Vaccination Centre.

Congratulations to the multidisciplinary team who worked to get the centre up and running and to the wonderful team now providing COVID-19 vaccinations to our community.



James Meehan High School head teacher, middle school Margaret Downey receives the first vaccination.



## Sharing health messages

More than 40 videos in-language and English are available on social media to share key COVID-19 health messages with our community.

Doctors, nurses, District staff, GPs and community members have participated in the videos in a range of languages including Arabic, Vietnamese, Hindi, Samoan, Tongan and Mandarin.

The videos have achieved a Facebook reach of more than 300,000 people so far.

You can find the videos on our Facebook pages, YouTube and LinkedIn.



## 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.

