

DISTRICT NEWS

Leading care, healthier communities



Chief Executive Amanda Larkin (right) greets staff at Campbelltown Hospital.

WHAT'S ON

1-30 November

- Movember
- Lung Cancer Awareness Month

12 November

- World Pneumonia Day

13 – 20 November

- Australian Food Safety Week

14 November

- World Diabetes Day

20 November

- Universal Children's Day

27 November

- Thank U NICU Day



Health
South Western Sydney
Local Health District

Heartfelt thank you to staff

The incredible efforts of our staff during the COVID-19 pandemic received wonderful recognition at historic Thank You Day celebrations across the District on 4 November.

With special events featuring plenty of delicious food, balloons and music, our staff gathered to acknowledge each other's contribution to caring for the community during the pandemic.

The District's Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said Thank You Day was held to acknowledge and thank staff for their fantastic efforts during the region's COVID-19 response.

"It was a day to highlight the phenomenal work everyone has been doing since March last year

to keep the community safe and stop the spread of COVID-19," Ms Larkin said.

"I am so proud of every staff member, from our frontline healthcare workers based in our hospitals and the community to our vaccination and testing teams and our non-clinical staff.

"We have faced many challenges during the pandemic but you all continue to rise to the occasion.

"We have worked so hard to keep our community safe from COVID-19 and we could not have done it without you.

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

**More photos:
Special feature inside**

Chief Executive Message



Ms Amanda Larkin, Chief Executive, South Western Sydney Local Health District.

My deep and heartfelt thanks goes out to every single one of you for your work through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank You Day marked an opportunity for us to come together to recognise the efforts of each of you and all our colleagues.

To the Emergency Operations Centre team and everyone who supported or came into EOC, joining the operations, workforce, care and vaccination teams, the rate at which you responded to rapidly emerging need, with the support of colleagues across the District, was exceptional.

Our Public Health detectives, the contact tracers who were at the centre of our work, came from all corners of the District and worked tirelessly to provide the vital information we needed.

Thank you to the care teams in each of our hospitals, the executives, clinicians, administrative staff, cleaners and food services staff who had to reorganise the way they worked to provide care to our most acute patients.

Primary and Community Health carried an enormous load of COVID-positive patients in the community while Aboriginal Health and Multicultural Health carried out exemplary work connecting people with information about testing, vaccination and public health advice.

Many of our teams pivoted to telehealth and introduced different models of care to ensure continuity of vital services and access to care in a COVID-safe way.

There were many who took on a different role during this time, from Oral Health teams and Allied Health professionals, nursing staff and students, who took up roles in our vaccination centres, to those who were redeployed across the District.

As cases continue to stabilise and we emerge from our heightened response, our Planning, People & Culture and Transforming Your Experience teams are helping us prepare for the new world of living with COVID-19.

Supporting all the efforts were District-wide services such as ICT, People & Culture, Finance and Assets, Clinical Governance, ESU and Communications teams.

I wanted to pause and say thank you to each of you.

Everyone had a role to play during the pandemic and I know you gave it your all. Your resourcefulness, determination and expertise were vital to the success of our response.

You have my deepest thanks.

60 seconds with...

Loan Doan

What is your role?

I'm a dental assistant at Fairfield Hospital but from mid-July to 31 October this year, I worked as an administration assistant at the Prairiewood Vaccination Centre.



How did you end up working in this field?

I was redeployed to work at the Prairiewood Vaccination Centre because my skills were needed there. It has been an honour to play a part in helping to keep people safe. My role included greeting and welcoming people, helping them to check-in, escorting people to the vaccination room and making sure everyone followed social distancing rules.

What do you love about your role?

I felt so supported and respected by management. It was an amazing team environment at Prairiewood and everyone came together and worked together to keep our community safe.

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

I am so proud I had a role in the COVID-19 vaccination rollout. I've added to my skills and have taken these skills back to my role in Allied Health at Fairfield Hospital.

Healing garden

Diversional therapist Samuel and registered nurse Thomas, from Drug Health, created a vegetable patch for inpatients in the withdrawal unit at Fairfield Hospital as part of our Transforming Your Experience Strategy.



"Our clients' whole wellness is important to us," Samuel said.

"Nature is healing and we started a veggie patch for the unit. Some clients like to take home a plant to keep at the end of their stay to keep the healing journey going".



Thank you





Thank you

for your care through COVID-19



Click [here](#) or visit swslhd-intranet.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/swslhd/media/thankyou.html for more photos







Safe haven in tough times

Minister for Mental Health Bronnie Taylor officially opened Campbelltown Safe Haven at a wonderful event with staff and consumers.

Safe Haven is a welcoming and non-clinical space for people who are at risk of suicide and feeling overwhelmed by the pressures of daily life.

District Mental Health Director Dr Claire Jones said Campbelltown Safe Haven was a place where people could informally chat to trained staff, have a cup of tea or coffee, join an activity or chill out in a quiet spot.

Campbelltown Safe Haven opens from 2pm to 9pm on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays at 80 Woodhouse Drive, Ambarvale.

Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUhSLgH2yXA) or visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUhSLgH2yXA to see the video about the new service.

PACER turns one

A successful partnership between the District's Mental Health staff and Police to give early intervention support to people who have a mental illness and reduce hospitalisations is celebrating its successful first year of operation.

The Police Ambulance Clinical Early Response (PACER) teams operating out of Bankstown and Campbelltown police stations have seen 870 consumers and diverted 726 people from hospital Emergency Departments in one year.

The District's Chief Executive Amanda Larkin thanked the clinicians for working hard to build strong relations with police and the community.

"This is a wonderful result and it means vulnerable and at-risk members of the community are receiving the high-quality care and support they need sooner," Ms Larkin said.



Keeping our mob safe

District staff are working with Tharawal Aboriginal Medical Service, Gandangara Health Service and KARI to provide vaccination to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in south western Sydney with great success.

The District's Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said thanks to this collaboration, 85 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had received their first dose of the vaccine and 80 per cent were fully vaccinated.

"This is a wonderful result and I thank our indigenous community for coming forward for vaccination to help protect themselves and their loved ones," Ms Larkin said.

The District's specialised team of nurses, Aboriginal Health workers and support staff deliver Pfizer vaccinations to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at pop-up clinics at convenient locations across the region.



Awards a triple treat

Three staff members were honoured with Transforming Your Experience awards at the District's virtual Annual Public Meeting in recognition of their commitment to safe and high-quality care and leadership.

Faye Southcombe, Manager of Growing Healthy Kids, won the Transforming Your Experience Award for clinical staff for her efforts in her redeployed role in the COVID-19 response and advocating for COVID patients being cared for at home.



Dr Milan Bassan, from Liverpool Hospital's Endoscopy Unit, Gastro/Liver Services, won the Transforming Your Experience clinical award for delivering personalised care to patients and being a role model to staff.

The Transforming Your Experience Award for non-clinical staff went to the District's Manager of Virtual Care, Sally Walker, for her work in the vaccination rollout and for delivering digital projects including eMeds.



Our superstars

The District's staff have been called superstars and been overwhelmed by the messages of support and tasty treats from our grateful community for the care they are providing to keep people safe from COVID-19.

Children in Revesby have teamed up with The Heights Café team in Bankstown to raise funds at a lemonade stand to buy morning tea hampers for staff at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital.

The hospital also received lolly bags and thank you messages from students from St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Hurstville.

Blooms the Chemist Padstow donated 10 self-care goodie bags and 10 morning tea packs to Liverpool Hospital. Volunteers from the Seventh Day Adventist Church donated 300 packets of chips to staff in Liverpool Hospital's Mental Health Unit.



Diabetes research

Diabetes is a complex condition but a new model of care, which teams primary and secondary care providers working closely together, is showing good evidence of success.

The District's Professor David Simmons (pictured below) will talk about integrated diabetes care at this month's Health Beyond Research & Innovation Showcase on Wednesday 17 November from 12pm to 1pm.

PhD student Reetu Zarora will talk about her research to evaluate this care model while Dr Chee L Khoo will give a GP's perspective.

You can watch the monthly seminar at www.healthbeyondshowcase.org.au



Community champion

Campbelltown Hospital Waratah House Registered Nurse Gabriel Gomes has been honoured with a prestigious award for his outstanding commitment to safe and high-quality mental health care.

Mr Gomes received the Commissioner's Community Champion Mental Health Clinician Award for 2021 in recognition of his deep understanding of mental health and thoughtful treatment of consumers in his care, during a virtual ceremony on 13 October.



Mental Health Commission of NSW Commissioner Catherine Lourey said Mr Gomes had worked to improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes of consumers and treated everyone around him with dignity and respect.

District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin congratulated Mr Gomes. "The award is a wonderful achievement and reflects his commitment to personalised, individual care," Ms Larkin said.

Contact us

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