

DISTRICT NEWS

Leading care, healthier communities



The District's Chief Executive Amanda Larkin, pharmacist David Yassa, GP Dr Dong Hua, vaccine recipient Danielle Barnes and South Western Sydney Primary Health Network Chief Executive Officer Dr Keith McDonald.

PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

Vaccination centre details:

- South Western Sydney Vaccination Centre
- Liverpool Vaccination Centre
- Prairiewood Vaccination Centre
- Walk-in vaccination clinics at various locations and dates. For more details, visit our website at swslhd.health.nsw.gov.au

Public health advice:

- Wear a mask in all indoor areas
- Follow physical distancing rules
- Get tested for COVID-19 even if you have mild symptoms
- Practise good hygiene and wash your hands often



Health
South Western Sydney
Local Health District

Incredible achievements

“Thank you to our staff and the amazing community of south western Sydney – we could not have achieved this without you.”

South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin thanked staff and the community as the region reached the 70 and 80 per cent double dose COVID-19 vaccination of the eligible population milestones this month.

The District also celebrated providing its 500,000th vaccination, with Western Sydney University student and Fairfield West resident Silver Esho, 25, receiving his second dose at Fairfield Community Centre in September.

Ms Larkin joined South Western Sydney Primary Health Network Chief Executive Officer Dr Keith McDonald PhD, General Practitioner

Dr Dong Hua, Pharmacist David Yassa and second dose vaccination recipient Danielle Barnes to mark south western Sydney’s historic 70 per cent double dose achievement.

“Our District staff, GPs and pharmacies have been doing a wonderful job to provide the vaccine to the community and I am so proud of everyone’s outstanding work,” Ms Larkin said.



Vaccination Outreach Nurse Unit Manager Nicole Tha, COVID-19 Incident Controller Sonia Marshall, Vaccination Lead Loretta Andersen and Silver Esho celebrate the milestone.

Chairman Message



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

As our community enjoys the easing of restrictions through October, they owe a great debt of gratitude to you all for your work in making these freedoms possible.

Without your tireless work, collaboration, creativity and passion, our health system would not be as strong as it is.

Without your commitment to vaccination and diligence in ensuring it is offered to all, including our most vulnerable, NSW would not be ready to ease restrictions.

The Board and I are so proud of every one of you.

To have delivered 500,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccination since February is astounding, as are the efforts of those on the frontline caring for our sickest patients in our ICUs and COVID-19 wards.

You have handled yourselves with competence and dedication, supporting each other all the way.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you.

Care at home

Continence Clinical Nurse Consultant Claire Dobson and her team at the Bankstown Community Health Centre have continued their work providing care in a patient's own home, reducing the need for them to visit our facilities during COVID-19.

Wearing full PPE for her visits, Claire empowers patients such as Mr M (pictured) by teaching them to participate in their own care.



60 seconds with...



Theodore Latu

What is your role?

I am a Multicultural Health Officer based at the Campbelltown office. I am part of a team that runs education programs to improve the health of the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community. However, I am currently redeployed to do COVID-19 screening.

How did you end up working in this field?

I was a volunteer for the Pacific Islanders Community Needs Assessment before I applied for a Health Promotion Officer position. I now work with Multicultural Health Services.

What do you love about your role?

I am lucky to work with supportive leaders and colleagues.

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

I am here to help the community, especially the Pacific Islander community. I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Pacific Islander community during the COVID-19 pandemic. I have also shared COVID-19 video messages in the Tongan language to the wider community.

Falls and frailty

At the click of a button, you can hear two leaders in Allied Health talking about the latest breakthroughs to help frail residents and find out how stroke survivors can overcome their swallowing difficulties at an online showcase seminar.

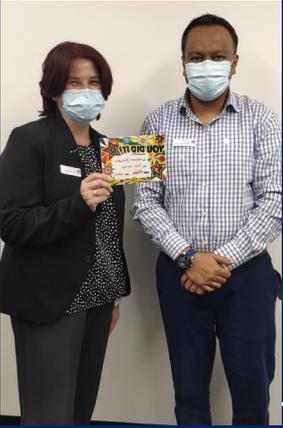


Speech pathologist Jacinda Choy (pictured) and noted researcher Associate Professor Cathie Sherrington were part of the October Health Beyond Research & Innovation Showcase.

The District's Director of Allied Health and Community Services Sue Colley chaired the event.

To watch the seminar at a time that suits you, visit healthbeyondshowcase.org.au or click [here](#).

Peaceful place



Lyn Straw and Moe Khan prepare to welcome people to the new sensory room

Having an injection can be a confronting time for many people but that was until a sensory room opened at South Western Sydney Vaccination Centre in Macquarie Fields for people with disability.

The room is a quiet place where people with autism or an intellectual disability can relax in a recliner or lie in a hospital bed and receive the vaccine in private and away from any noise on Thursdays from 7.30am to 9.30am.

Vaccination Lead Loretta Andersen said bookings are required because people also receive priority parking in the building on vaccination day and an escort to the sensory room for the injection.

“We are proud to provide this service to the community and have received some wonderful feedback from families,” Ms Andersen said.

Care recognised

Senior Aboriginal Health Worker for Palliative Care, Cheryl Porter-Pedras, has been honoured in the National Palliative Care Awards for her outstanding service.

The District’s Palliative Care Manager Janeane Harlum nominated Cheryl for the positive changes in the provision of cultural support for Aboriginal people with a palliative diagnosis.



“The whole team is excited about the special award Cheryl has received,” Ms Harlum said.

“Cheryl is well respected in the community. She provides support and education to staff in influencing earlier identification of patients to improve support during their end-of-life journey.”

Nursing finalists

The District has three outstanding finalists in this year’s NSW Health Nursing and Midwifery awards.

Young Mei Lau (right), of Fairfield Hospital, is a finalist in the Midwife of the Year category, while Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital has two finalists.



Sonia Kokuru (below) is a finalist in the New to Practice Nurse or Midwife category and Ward 2D is a finalist in Team of The Year.



The Districts Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Performance Sonia Marshall said she was thrilled at the recognition of our staff members.

“I am so proud of all of these nominees. They have all been doing fantastic work, making a difference in patients’ lives every day,” Ms Marshall said.

Sharing expertise

Vaccination Lead Loretta Andersen (pictured) had centre stage when the Premier’s daily press conference was held at South Western Sydney Vaccination Centre at Macquarie Fields recently.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the work of our dedicated staff to vaccinate our community. It is not the first time our clinicians have taken part in the Premier’s press conference.

Liverpool Hospital Birthing Unit Director Dr Gauthami Bhagwanani promoted vaccination safety to new mums and pregnant women.

Liverpool Hospital Intensive Care Nurse Manager Michelle Dowd spoke about working on the frontline of COVID-19 while Dr Ahmad Alrubaie, of Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, talked about promoting vaccination to multicultural communities.



Lights, camera, action to capture care

South Western Sydney Vaccination Centre has welcomed a film crew from Good Morning Macarthur to record a vaccination message for the community.

The centre's Nurse Manager Lyn Straw, her team members including Jeanette Henry (pictured) and community members featured in a social media video.

Liverpool Hospital's frontline health workers also starred in our social media videos to give the community a closer look at our work caring for COVID-19 patients. The videos featured the hospital's Birthing Unit (pictured), COVID-19 Ward, Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department. The videos have achieved more than 881,717 views on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SWSLHD) at www.facebook.com/SWSLHD and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/c/SouthWesternSydneyLocalHealthDistrict) at www.youtube.com/c/SouthWesternSydneyLocalHealthDistrict.



COVID-19 volunteer team celebrates win



The District's palliative care COVID-19 volunteers are celebrating winning the Volunteer Team of the Year for western Sydney at the Volunteering NSW Awards.

With volunteers unable to carry out their regular activities at the District's palliative care units due to the pandemic, volunteers took the steps to be innovative, adaptive and creative to support end of life care in a COVID-safe way. Some of their activities included making personalised Butterfly Boxes for palliative care units and Into the Dreaming boxes for Aboriginal patients.

Palliative care volunteer coordinator Arlene Roache congratulated the volunteers and thanked them for their wonderful work.

Everyday wellbeing

The District has been hosting a series of online Everyday Wellbeing sessions to help our staff stay healthy and resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic. The sessions have been running since August and cover topics including managing change and parenting and wellbeing.

How to maintain healthy relationships during COVID-19 is the final session in the series. It's on Wednesday 20 October from 12pm. A session link is sent to staff via an email from their General Manager's Unit.

A series of slides from each of the sessions is also available on the [intranet](https://www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/SWSLHDintranet) at www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/SWSLHDintranet

Contact us

To submit a story, event or provide images contact us on 8738 6848 or email SWSLHD-communications@health.nsw.gov.au. Don't forget to follow us and share our posts on social media.

