

# DISTRICT

NEWS

Leading care, healthier communities



## WHAT'S ON

- » **10 December**  
Human Rights Day
- » **12-18 December**  
Nurse Practitioner Week
- » **18 December**  
International Migrant's Day
- » **18-26 December**  
Chanukah Festival of Lights
- » **25 December**  
Christmas Day
- » **30 December**  
Additional Public Holiday
- » **31 December**  
New Years Eve



**Health**  
South Western Sydney  
Local Health District

The Aboriginal GOT IT! team received the NSW Health Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Healthcare

## Healthcare winners

Aboriginal GOT IT! has won the NSW Health Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Healthcare.

The program combines culture, family, education and mental health, using cultural healing and therapeutic practices to help children emotionally regulate.

Key to its success have been the deep partnerships formed with parents, teachers, mental health workers and the Aboriginal community.

Jemma Milloy, who is now the District's Aboriginal Workforce Manager, led a multidisciplinary team to culturally adapt an existing program in partnership with local Aboriginal health services.

"When you combine cultural and clinical practices, families feel acknowledged and heard, Ms Milloy said.

"Pride and connection to culture has helped these children to build strong relationships with their families and navigate the impacts of transgenerational trauma."

Designed for children aged 3 to 9 years, Aboriginal GOT IT! is a pre-school and school-based program led by a team of mental health workers (both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal).

"I'm so proud of the whole team and grateful for the support of our local schools, Aboriginal health services and the local Aboriginal Community. We came together on Aboriginal GOT IT! with the goal of producing tangible outcomes for our children and we've succeeded. It's such a wonderful feeling to see everyone's work recognised."

**See inside for our 2022 NSW Health Nursing and Midwifery and 2022 Multicultural Health Communications Awards winners and finalists.**

# Chair's Message



Mr Sam Haddad  
Chair

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank you all for another year of amazing work for the people of south western Sydney.

As we head into 2023, we are setting our sights on the future.

We launched the District's new Strategic Plan 2022-2027 Framework at our Annual Public Meeting last month.

This is an important first step in forging our District's shared focus for the coming five years.

The Executive Leadership Team, sites, services and facilities are now working with their teams to take this plan forward, turning strategy into action.

At the same time, the Board is focusing on a range of initiatives:

- Sustainability, for our environment and for the healthcare services we provide.
- Engagement, with our multicultural communities, with the broader health network and with you, our staff.

Our most recent Board meeting was held at Liverpool Hospital, where staff were invited to attend a forum. NSW Health Secretary Susan Pearce joined us, meeting many of our people and hearing about just some of the fabulous work being undertaken in our District.

The Board will continue visiting sites and attending events in the coming year to further connect with staff and community members.

I look forward to meeting many more of you and hearing your achievements and ideas. Thank you again for all you have done this past year to care for the people of south western Sydney.

The Board and I are incredibly proud of you all and grateful for your efforts.

Thank You.

Secretary Susan Pearce  
attends Liverpool Hospital

## 60 seconds with...

**Carlie Bills**

### **What is your role?**

I am the Manager of the Staff Wellbeing and Support Service.



We are the Employee Assistance Program for SWSLHD and provide one-on-one counselling to employees and their families, along with running wellbeing education sessions, post-incident debriefing and support to managers.

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

I've always been passionate about wellbeing and the positive side of psychology and, as a result, became an organisational psychologist.

My education and most of my experience has been around helping organisations have a positive impact on their people's psychological health.

I have also worked in more clinical roles, counselling people one-on-one and I believe the key to employee mental health and wellbeing is in taking both the systemic angle as well as supporting people at the individual level.

### **What do you love about your role?**

I love that I can help support our employees with their mental health, whilst also gathering the data we need to make changes at the organisational level.

### **What do you wish people knew about your role?**

I wish people fully understood the impact of taking proactive measures for the wellbeing of our teams. It has an incredibly positive impact not only on the individual's mental health, but also on engagement and productivity as well.





## Advance care planning

Marj, Maxine and Rachael (left to right) from Palliative Care Services were at Liverpool Library on Wednesday 24 November to spread the word on the importance of planning for future health decisions.

Learn what advance care planning is and why it is important at the [www.advancecareplanning.org.au](http://www.advancecareplanning.org.au). You can also find resources the roles and responsibilities of health professionals.



## Campbelltown Hospital BOOMTOWN! Award



Campbelltown Hospital won the Outstanding Health Project Award at the 2022 Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue BOOMTOWN! Awards.

Representative from Campbelltown Hospital, South Western Sydney Local Health District, Health Infrastructure and the Redevelopment Project team attended the gala dinner at Accor Stadium to accept the award.

The awards recognise major development projects that have delivered excellence in infrastructure and transport and significantly contribute to the sustainable growth of Greater Western Sydney.

## Dedicated to teaching

Liverpool Hospital's Dr Yasmin Ashraff has been honoured for her dedication to the wellbeing, education and mentoring of Junior Medical Officers (JMOs).

The Director of Prevocational Education and Training and emergency physician received the Geoff Marel Award at the Prevocational Training Awards, organised by the Health Education and Training Institute (HETI).

Hospital General Manager Karen McMenamin congratulated Dr Ashraff on her award win.

"Dr Ashraff has implemented practical strategies to support JMOs especially during the pandemic and ensuring JMOs are working in a safe and supportive environment," Ms McMenamin said.

"We are very proud of Dr Ashraff and thank her for her outstanding work."



## GP's national award

The District's Primary and Integrated Care Unit Director and specialist GP Dr Michael Tam has been honoured with a national award.

Dr Tam received the Royal Australian College of General Practice's Future Leader President's Medal at an awards ceremony in Melbourne.

The medal recognises Dr Tam's contribution to family medicine, research, health services development, and governance.

His clinical interest lies in the whole-person primary care of people living with mental illness, leading him to become involved in mental health policy, strategy, and governance, with local, state, and national bodies.

# New Refugee Health Plan



Our District has a long history of supporting refugee communities as the base of NSW Refugee Health Service including the establishment of the Refugee Health Nurse Program in 2012 which provides nurse-led assessment clinics for refugees across Sydney.

In December we launched the NSW Refugee Health Plan 2022-2027 in partnership with NSW Health and NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service.

The plan outlines three state-wide goals to better support refugees resettling in the state,

providing local health districts and related services guidance in responding to their ever-changing profiles and needs.

Director of the NSW Refugee Health Service Dr Mitchell Smith said the event was a huge success and he is looking forward to seeing it brought to life, with a spotlight on supporting all refugees.

“Pleasingly, the plan includes a specific focus on persons living with a disability, and for the first time, highlights those of refugee background with

diverse sexualities or who are gender diverse.”

Our Multicultural Health Committee will guide our next steps to ensure we are providing culturally responsive services, working in partnership with our community representatives.

Read the plan here:

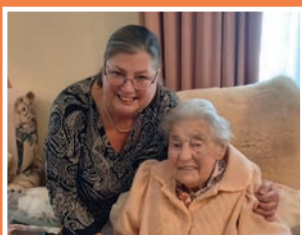
[www.health.nsw.gov.au/multicultural/Pages/refugee-health-plan.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/multicultural/Pages/refugee-health-plan.aspx)

## Celebrating carers

Palliative Care staff and volunteers celebrated all our wonderful carers for their immense dedication to supporting their loved ones.

Thanks to #CarersNSW we were able to put together gift bags for our carers filled with tasty snacks and carer resources, as well as hosting morning teas and activities.

Activities were held at Bowral Community Health Centre, Liverpool Hospital Ward 4C and Camden Hospital Palliative Care Unit.



## Convoy of cheer

Wests Tigers players are sharing gifts and plenty of cheer during their Christmas

convoy to Campbelltown, Liverpool and Bowral & District Hospitals this month.

Joe Ofahengaue and teammate Alex Seyfarth visited the children's and maternity wards at Campbelltown Hospital on the first stop of their convoy.

Camden and Campbelltown Hospitals General Manager Grant Isedale thanked the Tigers for their Christmas visit.

“Our patients, their families and our staff were thrilled to meet them. The club will have plenty of new young fans after their visit,” Mr Isedale said.





# Protect south west



The District's innovative COVID-19 communications approach has been recognised, winning the Multicultural Health Communication Awards' Pandemic Response category.

The innovative approach to rapidly sharing important COVID-19 information was led by the District's Strategic Communications & Media team in collaboration with Health Promotion, Multicultural Services, Aboriginal Health, and many representatives from our staff and community.

Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said more than 200 in-language videos and countless other resources were developed to share important information about testing, vaccination and managing COVID-19 symptoms in more than 30 languages.

"I thank every one of our staff and partners who contributed their influence, language, insights and networks, producing powerful messages to keep our community safe," Ms Larkin said.

Just some of the staff and community who made the campaign possible



Members of the Strategic Communications & Media and Multicultural Services teams accepted the award on behalf of the District

## Salute to volunteers

South Western Sydney Local Health District Board Member Professor Hugh Dickson has paid tribute to the important work of hospital auxiliaries.

Professor Dickson delivered the welcoming address at the United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW 89th annual conference at the Bankstown Sports Club.

"It was wonderful for the auxiliaries across our District and NSW to have the opportunity to come together after the challenges of the pandemic and discuss their plans for the future," Professor Dickson said.





# Nursing & Midwifery Winners



Sonia Marshall, Kim Wood, Cecilia Desousa and Denise Burns

Our District has been recognised in five out of eight categories in the 2022 NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

Four of our amazing nurses and midwives received the top honour, winning in their category.

Nurse of the Year:

**Cecilia Desousa**  
Clinical Nurse Consultant,  
Infection Prevention,  
Liverpool Hospital

Midwife of the Year:

**Kim Wood**  
Clinical Midwife Specialist,  
Liverpool Hospital, South  
Western Sydney.

Judith Meppem Leadership  
Award:

**Sonia Marshall**  
District Emergency  
Operations Centre Incident  
Controller and Director of  
Nursing, Midwifery  
and Performance.

Healing Heart Award for  
Exceptional Care:

**Denise Burns**  
Nursing Unit Manager,  
Macarthur Cancer  
Therapy Centre  
Campbelltown Hospital.

Congratulations also go to  
Liverpool Opioid Treatment  
Program, who were one of  
three finalists in the Team  
of the Year Award.

Well done to everyone!

Chief Executive Amanda  
Larkin with the Liverpool  
Opioid Treatment  
Program team



# Redevelopment updates

## Liverpool Hospital's new clinical space

A brand new clinical space has been delivered at Liverpool Hospital following construction completion of the Brennan Unit (Forensics).

Brennan Unit Service Manager Batoul El Husseini said she's delighted that the Forensics Department has found its permanent home within the hospital's Emergency Department.

"Our new home was carefully designed and will operate its services in an environment that offers comfort, safety and efficiency.

"The new space is an all-inclusive unit where a patient's journey is supported by our wonderful team from the moment they arrive."

A new Forensics Department is the first brand new space to be delivered as part of the first stage of main works for the redevelopment of Liverpool Hospital.

## A monumental year for Campbelltown Hospital

Campbelltown Hospital's new clinical services building is now abuzz with activity.

The Stage 2 redevelopment is nearly complete, with refurbishment and demolition works planned until late 2023.

These works will expand Theatres and Medical Imaging, refurbish the Renal Department, provide an additional entrance and new gardens, and welcome Nuclear Medicine to campus.

We can't wait to see further enhancements coming to the Campbelltown Hospital Campus and look forward to continuing to provide world-class healthcare to the Macarthur region.



## New features to come for Bowral Hospital

Construction for the \$55 million Stage 2 redevelopment at Bowral & District Hospital will ramp up in the new year.

Designed to meet the health needs of the Southern Highlands community, the project will link front and back-of-house services including allied health, outpatients services, administration and support areas.

(L) Karinn Marrone - Director Redevelopment, Kathryn Evans - Clinical Nurse Consultant, Batoul El Husseini - Brennan Unit Service Clinical Nurse Manager with Karen McMenamin - Liverpool Hospital General Manager (R) Artist impression - new Bowral Outpatient Centre



## Recognising our people

Each year the District's Allied Health team host their Allied Health Research Showcase and Awards. This year's event was in-person for the first time in two years, with staff across the District coming together for a series of presentations on current research and quality projects.

The fantastic efforts of staff were also on display with a number of awards celebrating excellence in leadership, education and research. Congratulations to all winners and the entire Allied Health team for their outstanding work.

After a successful accreditation there was much to celebrate for the District's Mental Health team. After more than 100 nominations and 450 staff votes, individuals and teams were recognised via a virtual announcement of this year's Mental Health Awards winners.

Congratulations to all nominees and winners for your fantastic work supporting consumers across the district.

Watch the virtual announcement here:

[swslhd-intranet.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/swslhd/mhealth/MHAwardsNight.html](https://swslhd-intranet.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/swslhd/mhealth/MHAwardsNight.html)

## 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 Facebook at South Western Sydney Local Health District.