

# DISTRICT NEWS

Leading care, healthier communities



Chief Executive Amanda Larkin (left) with Premier Dominic Perrottet, Minister for Health Brad Hazzard and guests in the new lab.

## World-class lab doubles in size

The new state-of-the-art NSW Health Pathology laboratory at Campbelltown Hospital has doubled in size to meet the needs of the growing Macarthur community now and into the future.

Premier Dominic Perrottet and Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard joined guests including NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant PSM and South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin on a tour of the new laboratory on 4 February.

Ms Larkin said the refurbished lab opened in late 2021 as part of the hospital's \$632 million stage two redevelopment and was playing a critical role in the District's COVID-19 response.

"I was so impressed with the new lab and to see first-hand the outstanding work of the

pathology staff, including processing rapid PCR tests for high-risk inpatients," Ms Larkin said.

"The lab now has the capacity to process more than 80,000 diagnostic tests per month which are crucial to detecting, diagnosing and treating disease and managing long-term health conditions.

"It is open 24 hours, seven days a week and also includes a larger blood bank, and biochemistry and specimen reception areas."

The Campbelltown Hospital redevelopment is nearing completion with the world-class new clinical services building set to be operational in mid-2022 (see story on page 4).

Find more information on the redevelopment [here](#).

### WHAT'S ON

» **1-28 February**

- Heart Research Month

» **23 February**

- Teal Ribbon Day, to support people affected by ovarian cancer

» **26 February**

- COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic  
Fairfield City Markets  
Fairfield Showground  
From 9am to 4pm



**Health**  
South Western Sydney  
Local Health District

# Chairman's Message



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

On behalf of the Board, I want to express our deep gratitude to all of you as you work through the Omicron wave of the pandemic.

We know this wave is challenging you all in new ways as you continue to care for our community.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

This year is set to be an exciting one with a new strategic plan for our District already in development.

The plan will embrace our learnings from COVID-19 and position our District to embrace the healthcare of the future.

With the importance of healthcare in the public consciousness, it was wonderful to see five people involved with South Western Sydney Local Health District honoured this Australia Day.

Congratulations Professor Geoff Delaney, District Deputy Board Chair Associate Professor Matthew Gray, Senior Workforce Educator Merridy Thompson, Consumer and Community Participation representative Tricia Parker and Associate Professor Colin MacArthur.

They are all a credit to our District and we are proud of their work and their achievements.

I encourage you to join in to hear about the amazing work of our colleagues.

## Lucky numbers

Two now has a special significance for the Dablio family and for the maternity unit at Liverpool Hospital. At 2.22 on 2/2/22, beautiful little Zyla Anica made her very special arrival at Liverpool Hospital.

Dr Shakil Ahmed was the lucky doctor at the delivery. Zyla weighed 3760g and measured 54cm at birth.



## 60 seconds with...



Sam Sio

### What is your role?

Project Manager in the District's Clinical Innovation and Business Unit. I implement strategic, innovative and interesting projects.

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

I started by fixing 'Maccas' cash terminals to implementing systems and services such as Health Outcomes and Patient Experience (HOPE), MyHealth Record, secure messaging and now the Pulse Oximeter Distribution Team for Primary and Community Health.

### What do you love about your role?

The variety of what needs to be done each day is what I love, from analysing datasets, tackling challenges with great clinicians to making an in-language video with the Media Team for my Samoan community about COVID-19 ... makes it fun. Hit the Like and subscribe button on the District's Facebook page people!

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

Chocolates are welcome for our department! Keeping patient data up-to-date and accurate in eMR is critical.

## Wellness rounding

Wellness rounding gave new graduate registered nurse Ma Adelpha Valondo Martinez a chance to share her experience during the COVID-19 pandemic at Liverpool Hospital.



"I have had the opportunity to work in multiple departments during my first rotation. I have been able to lead risk huddles, clinical handover, do follow-up phone calls and provide safe care to COVID-19 patients," she said.

"This has helped build my resilience as a registered nurse and has validated that I can do this job and not to fear change but welcome it."

# High honours for staff, volunteers

Our District's staff and volunteers were well represented among this year's Australia Day Honours, with five people receiving prestigious awards.

Three south western Sydney clinicians were honoured this Australia Day - Professor Geoff Delaney was appointed as a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia, and Associate Professor Matthew Gray, the District's Deputy Board Chair, and Senior Workforce Educator Merridy Thompson each received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

Associate Professor Colin MacArthur OAM received Liverpool Council's Australia Day Award for Health while Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital's long-serving Consumer and Community Participation



Professor Geoff Delaney



Associate Professor Matthew Gray



Merridy Thompson



Associate Professor Colin MacArthur



Tricia Parker

representative Tricia Parker received the Canterbury-Bankstown Council Volunteer of the Year Award.

Chief Executive Amanda Larkin congratulated the award recipients.

"I am so proud to see these five wonderful people, who have all contributed so much to our District and our region, receive these special honours," she said.

Professor Delaney, who joined the District 25 years ago and served as the Director of Cancer Services from

2009 to 2021, received his honour for significant service to oncology and cancer services, and to tertiary education.

Associate Professor Gray, a General Practitioner and Chair of the South Western Sydney Primary Health Network was honoured for his service to community health.

Dr MacArthur served as Liverpool Hospital General Manager, presiding over its transformation from a district hospital to a teaching hospital. He retired in 2021.

## Vale Dr Dunstan

South Western Sydney Local Health District and Campbelltown Hospital are mourning the loss of long serving and much loved paediatrician Dr Richard Dunstan.

Dr Dunstan died on 18 January after a long illness.

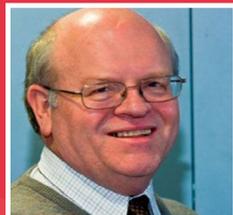
Chief Executive Amanda Larkin extended her deepest sympathy to Dr Dunstan's family and many colleagues.

"Ric was a dedicated and highly valued member of our paediatrics team, and was loved by his patients and colleagues," Ms Larkin said.

"During his 34 years of service to NSW Health and the Macarthur region, he worked across the Sydney Children's Network, and Liverpool and Campbelltown Hospitals.

"He made an outstanding contribution to the care of the District's children and was a wonderful mentor to our junior medical staff."

Ms Larkin said his establishment of the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation some 20 years ago to support paediatrics in the Macarthur region was a wonderful legacy and would continue to benefit the community for years to come.



## Start of care

A total of 129 interns have started their medical training at hospitals across the District and we wish them well for a successful and rewarding medical career.

The new doctors are now working at Campbelltown, Bankstown-Lidcombe, Liverpool and Fairfield Hospitals as part of their first rotation between metropolitan, regional and rural hospitals.

They include Smithfield resident Penelope Solofoni who is starting work at her local Fairfield Hospital and whose long-term goal is to become a GP to improve the health literacy of the Pacific Islander community.

District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said the two-year internships were an important part of the new doctors' training. "They will also play a vital role in our District's hospitals as we navigate through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic," she said.

# Art leaps from the walls

A kangaroo, emu, goanna and two yellow tail black cockatoos are bringing joy to patients and staff in Campbelltown Hospital's Aged Care Ward.

The animals are featured in four striking Aboriginal artworks by indigenous Bradbury artist Michael Fardon. Painted in acrylic, the paintings are a colourful new addition to the ward.

"I've heard the patients enjoy looking at the artworks. It's fantastic feedback," Mr Fardon said.

Mr Fardon painted the artworks at the request of fellow Aboriginal artist Randall Green, who works in General Services at the hospital.



## Countdown is on

With construction of Campbelltown Hospital's new 12-storey clinical services building nearing completion, teams across the facility are busily planning for the big move.

Campbelltown Hospital staff are being kept up-to-date on the progress of the redevelopment via a series of innovative online presentations hosted by the

project team. Tune in for the next REDtalk on Thursday 24 February from 11am.



For the latest on Hospital Street – the link connecting the new building to the existing hospital. Register online or via the QR code.



## Everyday wellbeing

Following the success of last year's online Everyday Wellbeing Program, staff have the opportunity to join new monthly sessions this year.

The program started in January with the next session on 16 February from 12-12.30pm focusing on 'the wellbeing and relationship connection'.

'Cultivating happiness' is the topic of the 22 March session, also from 12-12.30pm. Staff are encouraged to attend the sessions.

For more information email [SWSLHD-StaffWellbeingSupportServices@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SWSLHD-StaffWellbeingSupportServices@health.nsw.gov.au) or call 8738 4552.

## 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 [socialmedia@South Western Sydney Local Health District](mailto:socialmedia@SouthWesternSydneyLocalHealthDistrict).

