

# DISTRICT NEWS

Leading care, healthier communities



Sonia Marshall (left), Associate Professor Steve Frost and Professor Josephine Chow.

## WHAT'S ON

- » **3 March**  
World Hearing Day
- » **6 March**  
Clean Up Australia Day
- » **8 March**  
International Women's Day
- » **17 March**  
National Close the Gap Day
- » **13 - 20 March**  
Coeliac Awareness Week
- » **20 March**  
World Oral Health Day
- » **24 March**  
Research Showcase  
Oral Health Symposium
- » **21 - 27 March**  
Harmony Week



**Health**  
South Western Sydney  
Local Health District

## Nursing an exciting era in patient care

An exciting new way for nurses and midwives to explore research and innovation in patient care has arrived with the launch of a new research alliance.

The South Western Sydney Nursing and Midwifery Research Alliance is the latest collaboration between our District and the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research to benefit today's patients and future generations.

Led by newly appointed Professor of Nursing and Midwifery, Professor Josephine Chow, the alliance was launched on 7 March.

NSW Health Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Jacqui Cross, attended the launch with District leaders including Chief Executive Amanda Larkin, Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Performance Sonia Marshall, and

Director of Research Professor Les Bokey.

Ms Larkin said the alliance will foster a vibrant culture within the nursing and midwifery professional discipline in south western Sydney and provide opportunities to translate evidence-based research into best practice and new models of care.

"I look forward to seeking the opportunities that shape our future care and that stem from the South Western Sydney Nursing and Midwifery Research Alliance," Ms Larkin said.



# Chief Executive Message



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

Welcoming visitors, volunteers and pastoral carers back into our hospitals has been a fantastic step for us as a District.

They give us a sense of vibrancy and improve the morale of our patients and clients, providing essential support and assistance.

We are standing up elective surgery and resuming services paused during the Delta and Omicron outbreaks.

COVID-19 is still with us in south western Sydney and will be for some time yet.

Our hard-won knowledge, built over the past two years of caring for our community through the pandemic, will serve to change and grow our services.

In this edition of District News, we celebrate several beginnings – our new cohort of nurses and midwives beginning their careers, the Centenary Scholarship, awarded by Bowral & District Hospital to a school leaver entering a health profession and a new Breast Care Nurse starting at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital.

It is exciting and refreshing to reflect on these milestones and achievements. The past two years have been difficult for us all, so it is more important than ever to reflect on these important milestones.

You have accomplished so much and provided amazing care. Remember, always to care for each other. I am so proud of you all.

## Welcome to Erin!



Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital has welcomed new McGrath Foundation Breast Care Nurse Erin Williamson.

Erin is providing physical, psychosocial and emotional support to patients experiencing breast cancer and their families.

“I want to make things easier for people experiencing breast cancer. My role is limitless - there isn't much I wouldn't do for those in my care,” Erin said.

## 60 seconds with...



Sally Walker

### What is your role?

Vaccination lead since November 2021

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

I was seconded to the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) as part of the LHD pandemic response in 2021. EOC needed assistance as there was a focus on COVID-19 vaccination for NSW. We started with vaccinations at Ngarra Centre, Warwick Farm, in February 2021 and as the need increased we responded by opening South Western Sydney Vaccination centre at Macquarie Fields, Bankstown PCYC Clinic and the Prairiewood Clinic. To date, we have delivered over 650,000 vaccinations across the District.

### What do you love about your role?

I love working in an amazing team. I have had the pleasure to meet a range of people who I would otherwise not have known. The strength of the District is truly seen in the vaccination space as everyone banded together and got the job done. I love thinking of new and exciting ways to get vaccines available with outreach locations.

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

Coming into winter, booster vaccinations will help protect individuals and the community especially as we have not had a traditional flu season for the past few years. Wear a mask, wash your hands and get vaccinated!

## Safety essentials

Transforming Your Experience has been supporting staff and our District through the COVID-19 pandemic, but now the team is shifting its focus back to expanding the use of TYE safety essentials.



“We want to bring those skills to the forefront of everyone's mind,” TYE Director Natalie Wilson said.

“We are also looking to increase the use of our My Experience Matters surveys to collect patient and staff experiences and using this feedback to drive improvement.”

# Prize a high honour

Bowral & District Hospital's Centenary Scholarship has been awarded to student Georgia Cronin.

The scholarship is awarded annually to a Year 12 student or graduate from the Wingecarribee Shire who plans to study a health-related course at university.

Georgia, 17, of Robertson, is studying a four-year double degree at the University of Wollongong to become a psychologist and help people recover from a mental health crisis.

"Ms Cronin is a wonderful role model to her peers and the community and I wish her all the very best for a rewarding and successful career," Bowral & District Hospital General Manager Ken Barnett said.



# Car park stands tall

The new seven-storey car park under construction on the Liverpool Hospital campus has reached its highest point, with the focus now shifting to internal fit-out, signage and façade installation.



A key component of the Liverpool Health and Academic Precinct, the \$50 million car park will help support the hospital redevelopment through provision of an additional 500 campus parking spaces.

The new car park is set to be operational in mid-2022 and will be accessed via Burnside Drive. The existing P2 multi-storey car park will be closed and later demolished to make way for a new outdoor parking area and improved pedestrian access from Campbell Street.

Stay updated on what's happening on the Liverpool Hospital campus by following Liverpool Hospital on Facebook or @liverpoolredevelopment on Instagram.

# Vaccination goals

Our staff have kicked two vaccination goals to keep our community safe from COVID-19.

They recently welcomed former South Sydney Rabbitohs star Beau Champion (pictured below left) to South Western Sydney Vaccination Centre to promote children's vaccination. Staff and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community were thrilled to meet the former Indigenous All-Stars player.

The District has also celebrated one year of COVID-19 vaccinations on 22 February, with almost 2.1 million doses of the vaccine administered in south western Sydney. Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said it was wonderful to see NSW Health, GPs and pharmacies working together to achieve this fantastic result.



# Our new team

Graduate nurse Alyssa-Maree Mannoliti chose her career path to thank the wonderful nurses who cared for her when she spent time in hospital as a child for treatment for a cleft palate.

"I wanted to give back to the nurses who helped me and my family when I went to hospital. I'd like to work in paediatrics one day," Ms Mannoliti said.

Now starting her rotation in Liverpool Hospital's Colorectal and Gastrointestinal Wards, Ms Mannoliti is one of the 320 graduate nurses and midwives who are working at hospitals across our District.

District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said she was delighted to welcome the new staff to our hospitals and healthcare centres.

"They are doing a wonderful job and we are so thankful for their ongoing commitment to the community," Ms Larkin said.



# Women honoured with wonderful awards

Each year, International Women's Day offers us the opportunity to recognise the amazing contribution of women to our community and challenge ourselves to further embrace diversity, equality and inclusiveness.

This year's theme for International Women's Day encourages us to collectively #BreakTheBias.

Our community is diverse, our District workforce is diverse and it is important we recognise the role each of us plays breaking down biases by fostering inclusivity and valuing difference.

District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin visits different hospitals and services each year to recognise District women. This year, women working in Drug Health, Mental Health and Primary and Community Health were surprised with a visit and thank you certificates.



## 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.