Media Release

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

RPA – celebrating young people

*Imagine. Create. Inspire.*

That’s this year’s theme for National Youth Week (NYW) and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital will once again be highlighting the range of health services available to adolescents and young adults as part of the largest celebration of young people in Australia.

Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) Director of Adolescent Medicine, Dr Cameron Ly, said an information stall packed with fun and educational information and activities would be set up in the Hospital’s main foyer from Monday, 16 April, to Friday, 20 April,

Dr Ly said that from 10am, Tuesday, 17 April, the annual *Youth Friendly* Awards would be held in the Kerry Packer Education Centre (RPA) to recognise Hospital wards that had made an outstanding contribution to the care of young people.

“The Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM) theme for this year is *Impact of Trauma on Teens: Building the Safety Net,*” Dr Ly said.

“This inspired RPA’s Department of Adolescent and Transitional Medicine (ATM) to develop an art competition called ‘Stay on Track’, which incorporates a road traffic safety message highlighting an awareness of youth victims of motor vehicle accidents.

“Up to 22 per cent of all drivers and motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes are young persons aged 17-25, but this age group accounts for only 14 per cent of driver licence holders,” he said.

RPA’s ATM department offers inpatient, outpatient, and Transition Medicine services to adolescents and young adults. The Adolescent Medicine Outpatient Clinic provides multidisciplinary team support for young people with chronic illness.

“There is also the *Chill* room, which is a place where young inpatients can ‘get away’ from the ward environment and “chill out” with movies, games or art,” Dr Ly said.

For more information, call 9515 9260 or visit [www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/sswahs/youth](http://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/sswahs/youth)

Sexual health message

As part of the sexual health message of NYW, young people who are sexually active are being encouraged to visit their local GP to test for sexually transmissible infections (STIs).

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SLHD Director of Sexual Health, A/Professor Catherine O’Connor, said NSW had seen a large increase in some STIs, particularly chlamydia, among young people.

“Since 2007, chlamydia infections in the 16-25 year age group have increased by 50 per cent, and more than quadrupled over the past decade,” A/Professor O’Connor said.

“Chlamydia, like many STIs, is easily treated with a simple dose of antibiotics yet it is better to have never had it at all.

“Chlamydia is easily prevented by using condoms,” she said.

- Local youth health service, Youthblock, based in Camperdown, will be supporting two Youth Week music events at the Marrickville Youth Resource Centre. Youthblock will run an interactive sexual health stall providing resources, local service referral and information, and testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea. Young people will be encouraged to take part in a quiz that tests their knowledge on the topic. Contact Youthblock Youth Health Service on 9516 2233.

- ‘Watch Your Head’ is an evening of live music from four local bands, from 6pm–10pm, Friday, 27 April, along with ‘Balance the House’ – a R & B/Hip Hop performance night, from 6.30pm, Tuesday, 24 April. Website: http://www.myrc.org.au/

For heaps more information about Youth Week and what’s happening in your local area, visit www.youthweek.com