Media Release

Sydney Local Health District Media Unit

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Ready, set go – the race to thank our Nurses

Bedmaking races, BBQs and a Black & White Ball will be among celebrations on Friday 11 May, when Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) mark International Nurses Day.

SLHD Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services Katharine Szitniak said the Day was a chance to acknowledge nurses and midwives for the essential role they play in delivering quality health care.

“Nursing is the largest of all the health professions, around 40 per cent of SLHD staff are nurses or midwives,” Ms Szitniak said.

“They provide frontline support and care to patients and families around the clock, every day of the year, in hospital theatres, wards, community centres and at times in the home,” she said.

“International Nurses Day allows us to show our appreciation for their commitment, passion and hard work.

“It is also a chance for nursing and midwifery staff to have fun, and celebrate together their shared commitment to their profession.

“This year for the first time we will also present the SLHD awards, recognising Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Person Centered Care,” Ms Szitniak said.

International Nurses Day is held each year to mark the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, who advised on the training of Australian nurses and influenced the design of the wards at Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital.

Media & Photo Opportunities – Friday 11 May

Concord Repatriation General Hospital

10:30am - 11:30am  Centaur Service in the 113th AGH Memorial Chapel
Nurses will join a service to commemorate the sinking of the Hospital ship Centaur during WWII

11:30am - 2:00pm  Lunch for nursing staff

12:00pm - 2:00pm  Entertainment on The Green – music from the NSW Ambulance Band

1:00pm - 1:30pm  Bedmaking races – teams battle for the Golden Gumboot Trophy

2:30pm - 3:30pm  Awards presentation & the cutting of the International Nurses Day cake
Winner of the photo competition announced
3:30pm - 4:00pm  International Nurses Day cakes delivered to staff on evening shift
10:00pm  Pizza delivery to staff on night shift

RPA Hospital
9:00am - 11:00am  Morning Tea in the Fountain Courtyard
11:30am - 2:00pm  BBQ Lunch & Market Stalls on Gloucester House Lawn
                   Entertainment from the Army Band
2:30pm - 4:00pm  Award Ceremony in the Kerry Packer Education Centre Auditorium
6:30pm - 12:00am  Black & White Ball

Balmain Hospital
8:30am  Trivia competition on the wards
11:00am - 11:30am  Bedmaking competition
11:30am - 2:00pm  BBQ lunch
1:00pm  Awards for Excellence announced
10:00pm  Pizza delivery for staff on night duty

Canterbury Hospital
7:30am - 8:30am  Breakfast for night duty nursing staff
11:30am - 2:00pm  BBQ lunch
12:45pm  The Canterbury Cup bedmaking race (heats)
1:00pm  The Canterbury Cup bedmaking race (final)
1:15pm  Scholarship & Awards for Nursing Excellence presentations