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Concord Hospital wins major awards

Concord Hospital has won two prestigious awards for services which reduce the number of bone fractures suffered by people with osteoporosis and support patients with burns.

The Fracture Liaison Service at Concord Hospital and the S.H.A.R.E burns peer support program were both honoured at the NSW Ministry of Health Power of Innovation Symposium.

The Fracture Liaison Service received the award for developing a cost effective and innovative model of care, which could now be implemented across NSW.

In establishing the service, Professor Markus Seibel and his team at the Department of Endocrinology demonstrated that patients who had been investigated and treated by a specialised post-fracture service had a greatly reduced risk of having another fracture compared with patients who were not managed by Concord's Fracture Liaison Service.

"Patients who suffer a hip, leg or arm fracture certainly get their fracture fixed with screws and pins, but nobody asks the question why did they have a fracture following such minimal impact in the first place," Professor Seibel said.

"In other words, although there are medications available which can significantly reduce the risk of new fractures and access to these medications through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme has improved over the years, the majority of patients with osteoporotic fractures are being neither investigated nor treated for their underlying condition."

Osteoporosis is a condition where the bones become fragile and brittle. Even a minor bump or fall can cause serious fracture.

Fractures resulting from osteoporosis can cause lasting pain, deformity, loss of independence and can lead to premature death in older Australians. One in five people who suffer a hip fracture die within six to 12 months of sustaining the injury.

The S.H.A.R.E burns peer support program was honoured for developing a formalised peer support program, championed by volunteers who are burn survivors.

Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Dr Teresa Anderson congratulated both teams on their awards.

“These unique and innovative programs both deliver models of care that place patient care at the forefront of service delivery,” Dr Anderson said.

“They address the needs of our patients and will be a great resource to doctors and nurses across the Local Health District and indeed all of New South Wales.

“Congratulations to Professor Seibel and the team and the SHARE Peer Support Volunteers at Concord Hospital for their hard work on these very worthy awards,” she said.