First choice for graduate nurses

A record number of graduate nurses and midwives are choosing to start their careers with Sydney Local Health District thanks to its reputation for excellence in healthcare and long-standing commitment to research, education and training.

About 320 graduate nurses and midwives will start work this month at Royal Prince Alfred (174), Concord (90) and Canterbury (26) hospitals, and across the District’s mental health services (30).

The country’s largest recruitment process coordinated by NSW Health saw about 420 graduate nurses place SLHD facilities as their first preference for employment, an increase of 65 from last year.

The nurse manager workforce and innovation at Sydney Local Health District, Paul Bennett, said this figure highlighted the attraction of the District’s hospitals and services among nurses and midwives eager to develop their careers.

“The District is fortunate to have some of the top performers starting their careers with us, such as graduate nurse Elyse Taylor. Ms Taylor is one of five national nurses picked by the Australian College of Nursing to undertake its Emerging Nurse Leader program,” Mr Bennett said.

“This program recognises leadership qualities in nurses and develops their skills so that we have our future leaders in the world of nursing and healthcare from the outset.”

Ms Taylor chose RPA as her first preference for employment and will start her placement at the transplant unit following orientation.

“We are pleased to welcome nurses of such high calibre, such as Ms Taylor, to strengthen our workforce and help deliver the highest quality of care to our patients.

“In return, the new nurses will be exposed to a wealth of clinical expertise and support through two six-month placements across specialties such as cardiovascular, cancer services and drug health,” Mr Bennett said.

For the first time, the District will also have graduate nurses joining its community health centres. Five nurses will undertake placements at community health centres exposing new starters to the world of community and chronic care.

“We are entering a new phase of healthcare with a greater emphasis on innovative models of care outside the hospital, such as hospitals in the home.

“A bright and dynamic workforce is needed to ensure a long and sustainable future exists for community care across the District,” Mr Bennett said.

“Our graduate nurses will help achieve this.”

The nurses will start their careers in stages throughout the year with the first group of 48 starting at RPA today.
For more information or to interview graduate nurse Elyse Taylor, please contact Caline Haddad from Sydney Local Health District on (02) 9515 9606 or caline.haddad@sswahs.nsw.gov.au