7 February 2013

Inaugural five-year plan for sexual health launched

Sydney Local Health District has today launched its inaugural five-year sexual health services strategy and a new purpose-built clinic to improve patient care, delivering on its commitment to provide excellence in healthcare for all.

Launched by the District’s Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson, the Sexual Health Services Strategy 2013-2018 is the result of extensive consultation with leading sexual and public health clinicians, planners, hospital executives, key stakeholders and clients across NSW and Australia.

Created in line with significant state-wide and national health policies on sexually transmissible infections, the strategy will help ensure Sydney Local Health District continues to provide world-class care to clients, many of whom are living with debilitating and complex health problems associated with HIV, hepatitis C and hepatitis B.

“We have an excellent reputation in Sydney Local Health District of providing highly successful sexual health services and multi-pronged strategies aimed at reducing sexually transmissible infections,” Dr Anderson said.

“However, our fight is far from over. This District still has one of the highest HIV infection rates in NSW, home to more than 14 per cent of the state’s HIV patients. We also have one of the highest rates of Hepatitis B and C infection in the state, particularly in the City of Sydney area, Marrickville and Canterbury,” she said.

“This strategy provides us with a very clear five-year road map to ensure we stay on target in reducing infection rates by increasing community education and health promotion, and providing more targeted services for priority populations,” she said.

Also today, the District officially unveiled its new, improved sexual health clinic in Marsden Street, Camperdown.

RPA Sexual Health, headed by Dr Catherine O’Connor, is now housed in a discreet location with multiple purpose-built rooms for clinical consultations, counselling, educational forums, libraries and office areas.

RPA Sexual Health already provides free STI testing and treatment, counselling, HIV testing and management, and hepatitis vaccinations to clients in Sydney’s inner west. It will also soon introduce Rapid HIV Testing, online appointment bookings and text message appointment reminders.

If you are interested in attending the launch and touring the new clinic please contact our Media Unit on 9515 9607.

The launch is on February 7 at 10am at 16 Marsden St, Camperdown.