8 April 2013

Supporting and celebrating young people for Youth Week

Nursing staff at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital will be recognised for their support and care of young people at the Youth Friendly Awards, part of National Youth Week (8-12 April) celebrations.

The Director of Adolescent Medicine at Sydney Local Health District, Dr Cameron Ly, said the awards were the perfect way to recognise those staff who made hospital wards friendly and welcoming places for young people.

"Being unwell in an adult hospital can be an overwhelming experience for our young patients and we are so grateful to the nurses and staff that make their stay just that bit easier," Dr Ly said.

In addition to the awards, the team at Adolescent and Transition Medicine has an action-packed week planned for Youth Week to spread the message – Be active. Be happy. Be You.

A week-long stall will be available at the foyer of RPA with fun and educational activities to increase awareness of current health concerns in young people. An art project will also be on show including drink coasters decorated by inpatients who use the Chill Room.

“The Chill Room is a great space for young patients to get away from the ward environment and ‘chill out’ with movies, games, art or play a game of foosball. It is just one way the team helps young people cope with being in an adult hospital environment.

“The team also does daily visits to adolescents and young patients aged 12-24 years who are admitted to an acute service at RPA for support, education and advocacy, to help them manage their illness and stay out of hospital,” Dr Ly said.

“A recent study conducted by the team found that 80 per cent of young patients at RPA are satisfied with their adult hospital experience,” Dr Ly said.

“We’re thrilled with this result and look forward to another successful Youth Week to raise awareness and support for young people and their healthcare needs,” he said.

For information on the Department of Adolescent and Transition Medicine, please visit: www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/sswahs/youth

Youth Week events:
- Information display, Monday 8 to Friday 12 April, foyer of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
- Youth Friendly Awards, Tuesday 9 April, RL Harris room, RPA

For more information, or to attend events during Youth Week, please contact Caline Haddad from Sydney Local Health District on 9515 9606 or email caline.haddad@sswahs.nsw.gov.au