8 July, 2013

It’s your health service – why not get involved?

This NAIDOC Week (7-14 July, 2013), Sydney Local Health District is calling on the local Aboriginal community to get involved and engaged with Canterbury Hospital to help achieve health equity.

The District will celebrate NAIDOC Week at an event on Wednesday, 10 July at Canterbury Hospital. The event will feature cultural performances, speeches and a barbecue.

The Director of Aboriginal Health for Sydney Local Health District, George Long, said the event was the perfect opportunity to demonstrate the District’s commitment to health equity and to encourage greater community participation in health services.

"With one of the largest urban Aboriginal populations in NSW, our District plays a pivotal role in delivering accessible, culturally appropriate, holistic health services to the community," Mr Long said.

"Working in partnership with Aboriginal services and government agencies, our District is committed to closing the 10 to 17 year health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

“We’re calling on the community’s participation to help us achieve this mission.

"Everyone in the community has a role to play, and by working together we hope to achieve greater access to healthcare by matching our services to community needs,” he said.

A suggestion box, located at the foyer of Canterbury Hospital, will be unveiled for community submissions.

"We’re seeking feedback from members of the community on their experiences at Canterbury Hospital, what they need from health services, and ideas on how they would like to get involved," Mr Long said.

"All ideas are welcome, simply fill in the form and drop it in the box."

Event details:

- NAIDOC Week event: 11am, Wednesday, 10 July, Canterbury Hospital, Thorncraft Parade, Campsie.

For more information, or to attend the event, please contact Caline Haddad from Sydney Local Health District on 9515 9607 or at caline.haddad@sswahs.nsw.gov.au.
About NAIDOC Week

The theme for NAIDOC Week 2013 is *We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963*, which proudly celebrates the 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions to the Federal Parliament. The petitions protested the Commonwealth’s granting of mining rights on land excised from Arnhem Land reserve and sought recognition by the Australian Parliament of the Yolngu peoples’ traditional rights and ownership of their lands.

NAIDOC Week (7-14 July 2013) is held every year as a way of promoting a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture, celebrating the survival of Indigenous culture and the Indigenous contribution to modern Australia.