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It has been a busy year as Sydney Local Health District continues to provide high quality patient and family centred healthcare in response to an ever increasing demand for our health services.

This year, we were again named as the best performing local health district in the state and received numerous state and national awards, including a Premier’s Award for our Transfer of Care program, which gets paramedics back on the road faster by allowing them to hand over their patients to a team of experienced nurses in our emergency departments. This program was piloted at RPA last year and since its success, has been rolled out across NSW.

We also won the Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management for our electronic medication management at Concord. The introduction of eMeds saw an increase in patient safety through improved quality, safety and effectiveness of medication management.

We have made significant enhancements to our medical record systems with Canterbury, Royal Prince Alfred, Balmain and Concord Hospitals rolling out eMR2 as well as eMeds across Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, marking a critical milestone for the program, with further plans to roll it out at Canterbury and Balmain next year.

Our Pitch series, STARS program and the Fire Simulation Unit won TMF awards, while RPA’s Dr Bethan Richards was named the Australian Medical Association’s Teacher of the Year.

I’d also like to congratulate both Professor Richard Scolyer on being awarded the RPA Medal and Dr John Cullen as the recipient of the annual Pride of Concord Award. Among many breakthroughs, Professor Scolyer’s research aims to achieve zero deaths from melanoma. Dr Cullen is an esteemed geriatrician who has been at the hospital for more than 38 years.

Our annual Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium was another significant success this year attracting thousands of staff, clinicians and researchers to exchange exciting ideas on the future of healthcare. This included the Sydney Robotics Summit which drew more than 400 leading surgeons and clinicians from around Australia and the world.

It was also an opportunity to launch The Big Idea where we provided pre-seed funding for the commercialisation of a translation research project. The winnings went to a corneal BioPen which uses special ink to repair eye injuries. Other ideas included a wearable fibre optic sensor to monitor heart rates, a personalised 3D printed airway stent, a birthing simulator for clinical training, a new immunosuppressive drug and a biomarker for coronary artery disease.

I’d also like to make a special mention to RPA PhD student Sarah McDonald who was awarded $1.47 million by the NSW Medical Devices Fund to further develop a real time monitoring pregnancy patch in conjunction with pregnant women and the team at RPA’s Women and Babies.

As I look forward to 2017–18, I know that this District will continue to deliver excellence and pursue innovation to deliver the very best in healthcare for more than 640,000 people in our community.
Delivering world class patient care has underpinned our work each and every day of another highly productive year for Sydney Local Health District.

This year we announced a number of strategic and operational initiatives across the organisation, including a very welcome $341 million upgrade to Concord Hospital.

We are very excited that this funding will deliver Australia’s first comprehensive care centre for Defence Force personnel and their families, additional inpatient capacity, enhanced ambulatory services and a new cancer centre.

This upgrade will help us meet the community needs of one of the fastest growing areas in Sydney and one with an increasingly ageing population.

We also opened the state’s second peritoneectomy service at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital this year to provide surgical treatment for cancers of the peritoneum (abdominal lining).

And the southern hemisphere’s first training centre for robotic surgery.

I’m confident the new centre will help Australia become a global leader in robotic surgery which can only deliver improved outcomes for our patients.

We launched our innovative Living Well, Living Longer program which has increased access to health and wellbeing outcomes for those living with a severe mental illness, and we launched BPTOK, Australia’s first wellbeing program for junior doctors which we hope will positively change the face of medical training for future generations.

We held our inaugural EquityFest which brought together hundreds of people from the health and community sectors to discuss ways in which we can continue to challenge inequalities and build a just and inclusive community.

And we launched Healthy Families, Healthy Children, a fantastic new resource helping give our youngest community members the very best start in life.

This year, we also held another successful Yaralla Festival aimed at maintaining good physical and mental health and connecting with nature and our community.

Finally, everyone in this District comes to work each day to make a difference and I am immensely proud that we have all achieved that again this year.

Let’s continue to deliver world-class patient and family centred health care to our community and beyond.
Sydney Local Health District is located in the centre and inner west of Sydney, providing healthcare to a population of almost 640,000 people. As a District, we are proud of our ongoing commitment to achieve excellence in healthcare for all and last year opened our doors to 160,234 emergency patients, over 170,000 inpatients, delivered 6,925 babies and performed 40,400 operations.

Our services also extend to all sectors of the community with our community health, mental health, aged and chronic care, drug health and oral health services continuing to reach out to our growing community to provide world-class healthcare where and when people need it.

With more than 11,200 staff, we proudly host many world-leading clinicians, researchers and research institutes, striving for innovation and to implement best practice to shape the way modern health services are delivered for our patients. Our CORE values of Collaboration, Openness, Respect and Empowerment are reflected in our staff and our services and our patient and family centred approach to initiatives ensures we continue to be one of the best performing health districts in NSW.

Sydney Local Health District is committed to providing excellence in healthcare for all. We are committed to our staff and our Workforce.

Strategic Plan 2016–2020 sets out our commitment to attract, develop, empower and enhance our people to ensure a good fit between the needs of our community and the skills, competencies, culture, expertise and resilience of our employees.

District Hospitals and other facilities
1. Balmain Hospital
2. Canterbury Hospital
3. Concord Centre for Mental Health
4. Concord Repatriation General Hospital
5. Dame Eadith Walker
6. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
7. Sydney Dental Hospital
8. Thomas Walker (Rivendell)
9. Tresillian Family Care Centres

Major Community Health Centres
10. Camperdown
11. Canterbury
12. Croydon
13. Marrickville
14. Redfern
40,400 operations

160,200 emergency patients

6,900 babies delivered

40,700 ambulance presentations

28,000 live with a disability

640,000 people living locally

550 clinical trials underway

53,000 unpaid carers
Aged Health, Chronic Care, Rehabilitation and Endocrinology, and General Medicine

Associate Professor John Cullen
Clinical Director
Professor Ian Caterson
Deputy Clinical Director
Debra Donnelly Clinical Manager
Julie-Anne O’Keefe Operations Manager

This clinical stream provides care for members of the community who are more likely to have multiple acute and chronic co-morbidities, disability including cognitive disabilities, and who have frequent interactions with healthcare providers across multiple settings of care provision. The stream includes a complex range of acute and sub-acute inpatient services, services that assist transition from hospital to home, community services, outpatient and ambulatory care services across the District. The District has 77 Residential Aged Care Facilities, with 4,576 residents. Assisting local RACF residents access appropriate health care is one of the responsibilities of the stream.

Cancer Services and Palliative Care

Associate Professor Philip Beale
Clinical Director
Anne Lofaro Clinical Manager

This stream provides networked cancer care and treatment across Royal Prince Alfred, Concord and Canterbury hospitals and the public-private partnership with Chris O’Brien Lifehouse. These networked services comprise one of the largest concentrations of cancer expertise in NSW and are nationally and internationally renowned for treatment and research in melanoma, multiple myeloma, head and neck cancer, lung cancer, colorectal cancer, sarcoma and gynaecological cancers. The stream’s primary objective is to provide equitable access to timely, innovative, state-of-the-art cancer services for all patients including medical and radiation oncology, surgical and palliative care services.

Cardiovascular

Professor Philip John Harris
Clinical Director
Professor Len Kritharides
Deputy Clinical Director
Jerry O’Sullivan Clinical Manager

This stream includes cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, vascular surgery and renal medicine departments, all of which are distinguished by a culture of research and scholarly enquiry. The stream boasts a remarkable proportion of specialist clinicians with higher research degrees, and many clinical leaders are also leaders of major national scientific and clinical bodies. Services for patients with cardiovascular disease are changing dramatically, driven by changing epidemiology of the diseases and relentless progress of biomedical innovation, which yields new technologies to tackle old problems.

Community Health Services

Miranda Shaw General Manager
Ivanka Komusanac Director Nursing
Paula Caffrey Director, Child and Family Clinical Services
Sue Amanatidis Director, Specialist Services
Dianna Jaggers Director, Integrated Clinical Systems and Information Management
Vesna Dragoje Director, Sydney Health Care Interpreter service

Associate Professor Catherine O’Connor
Executive Clinical Director (Advisory)

This portfolio includes a wide range of services including Sydney District Nursing, Hospital in The Home, Palliative Care, Child and Family Health, Disability Specialist Unit, Healthy Homes and Neighbourhoods, Youth Health, Sexual Health and HIV, Sexual Assault Counselling, Violence Prevention and Women’s Health, and the Sydney Health Care Interpreter Service. Health education programs complement clinical services. Services are delivered in community-based locations and patient homes by 538 dedicated staff.

Drug Health

Professor Paul Haber Clinical Director
Judy Pearson General Manager

This stream provides a range of treatments and interventions at hospitals and community health centres across the District to address the needs of people with disorders of substance use and related harms. The stream also works with community groups to address local concerns relating to drug activity and public amenity. Services include withdrawal management; opioid treatment; clinical toxicology; MERIT; Harm Minimisation including Needle Syringe Program and primary health care for injecting drug users; counselling; tobacco cessation clinics; perinatal and family drug health services; and hospital consultation and liaison.

Gastroenterology and Liver

Professor Geoff McCaughan
Clinical Director
Judy Dixon Clinical Manager

This stream provides colorectal surgery, endoscopy, gastroenterology, hepatobiliary surgery, hepatology and upper gastro-intestinal surgery. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is also one of two sites in NSW that perform liver transplantation. With services at RPA, Concord and Canterbury hospitals, the stream provides medical and nursing care to patients that have acute and chronic conditions of the gastro-intestinal tract such as liver disease, colorectal cancers, inflammatory bowel disease, minor ano-rectal disease, diverticular disease of the large bowel, faecal continence and large bowel dysfunction problems. Specialised endoscopy units perform more than 12,000 procedures a year, including gastroscopies, colonoscopies, sigmoidoscopies and oesophageal dilatation.
Laboratory Services

Dr Robert Lindeman Executive Director
Clinical Operations, NSW Health Pathology

Associate Professor Sue McLennan
Director Operations, NSW Health Pathology East

NSW Health Pathology provides diagnostic testing throughout NSW, including Sydney Local Health District. Specialists also provide clinical services in haematology, immunology, microbiology and infectious disease and chemical pathology. Laboratories are at RPA, Concord and Canterbury Hospitals. Our expert pathologists are integrated into our clinical services, teaching and research programs.

Medical Imaging

Professor Michael Fulham
Clinical Director

Anne Lofaro Clinical Manager

Liesl Duffy Acting Business Manager

This stream provides x-ray, CT, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging, angiography, interventional angiography, general nuclear medicine, SPECT-CT, and radionuclide therapy at Concord and RPA hospitals, with PET-CT, interventional neuro-radiology and a cyclotron at RPA. The stream also provides x-ray, CT and ultrasound at Canterbury Hospital and x-ray at Balmain Hospital. Radiology now has three new interventional suites with one bi-plane device and the Neurointerventional Service is playing a critical role in acute stroke care. CT scanners were replaced and upgraded at RPA, Concord and Canterbury. RPA Molecular Imaging introduced new PET ligands (dotatate, PSMA) for the diagnosis of prostate cancer and neuroendocrine tumours.

Mental Health

Associate Professor Victor Storm
Clinical Director

Clair Edwards Deputy Director, Director Nursing

The service manages all public mental health facilities within Sydney Local Health District, covering eight Local Government Areas from inner city Ultimo to Concord and Canterbury. In addition to the provision of general mental health services across the age range, there are specialist services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, eating disorders, mood disorders, and multicultural services. The service has partnerships with organisations that care for consumers and their families or carers, providing accommodation support, leisure programs, vocational and educational training and respite assistance.

Neurosciences, Bone and Joint, Plastics and Trauma Surgery

Dr Paul Stalley Clinical Director

Jerry O’Sullivan Clinical Manager

This stream encompasses a range of services including chronic pain, rheumatology, trauma, all orthopaedic services, ophthalmology, neurosurgery, ear nose and throat surgery, clinical immunology, infectious diseases, HIV medicine, allergy services, plastic and reconstructive surgery and the entire gamut of neurology and associated neuroscience services. These services are provided at District, tertiary and quaternary levels, both to patients living within Sydney Local Health District and across NSW, with a strong and innovative research and education component. They are provided within the District and selected outreach and ambulatory services are provided in rural and regional areas.

Oral Health

Associate Professor (Dr) Sameer Bhole
Clinical Director

Dr Jason Cheng Acting General Manager

Sydney Dental Hospital provides level six oral health services, which support eligible residents of NSW for their tertiary and quaternary oral health needs. There are currently 160 public dental chairs available in the District. The Oral Health Clinical Stream recognises that the demand for oral health services will continue to grow, in response to population growth, maintaining good oral health, and the introduction of more advanced procedures and techniques. The service aims to meet these demands by continuing to protect, promote, maintain and improve the oral health of the community, whilst strengthening access to services and programs for communities which are vulnerable, marginalised or experiencing the poorest health. Oral health also continues to support and strengthen the relationship with a number of educational institutions and invests in research to strengthen evidence based practice.

Population Health

Dr Leena Gupta Clinical Director

Debbie Killian General Manager

Population Health works in a variety of ways and with a wide range of partners to protect and promote the health of the local population. The service recognises that many personal, local and global factors affect health and illness and delivers a comprehensive range of evidence-based programs with a strong focus on achieving equity of health status and health service access across the population. It comprises of the Health Promotion Unit, Public Health Unit, HIV and Related Programs Unit (HARP), Health Equity Research and Development Unit (HERDU), Public Health Observatory and the Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service (MHAHS). In addition, in the last year, the Multicultural Health Service and Pozhet Service, have moved from Community Health to Population Health.
Respiratory and Critical Care
Professor Paul Torzillo Clinical Director
Judy Dixon Clinical Manager
This stream includes the emergency, intensive care and respiratory departments. Each of the services provide specialist care concerned with the acute diagnosis and management of conditions, including those that are life threatening, which may require sophisticated medical support and invasive monitoring. Services are resource intensive and contain many components of care that are technologically advanced. The stream cares for some of the most medically vulnerable people who use the healthcare system, including those who are medically unstable, recovering from major invasive operations, suffering with multiple organ failure, potentially lethal arrhythmias, acute renal failure, extensive burns, those who have been sexually assaulted and those suffering from severe respiratory compromise.

Women's Health, Neonatology and Paediatrics
Dr Robert Ogle Clinical Director
Ms Jan White Clinical Manager
This stream embraces women's health in maternity and gynaecology as well as neonatology, paediatrics and youth health. The stream's research network has expanded over the past 10 years in many areas, but particularly in obstetrics. This has resulted in a stimulating environment of auditing our current clinical practice as well as answering new research questions to improve clinical outcomes. A growing population and a rising birth rate have resulted in an increase in complexity of patients in obstetrics and maternal foetal medicine. Similarly, the growing young population has resulted in an increase in paediatric presentations to our emergency department. There is a focus on patient and family centred care across the stream with a strong interface with the community and its associated resources.
When Bev Hopkins arrived at Balmain Hospital for melanoma treatment, he was delirious.

Using the Care of Confused Hospitalisation Older Person Study, or CHOPS, nursing staff were able to quickly identify the 90-year-old was confused and gave him targeted care to meet his needs.

The CHOPS program aims to improve the experiences and outcomes of confused older people in hospital by giving nursing staff tools and strategies to best provide care.

“CHOPS enables us to screen for delirium early which means patients can be better managed on the ward,” says Tara Finnie, Acting Nurse Unit Manager at Balmain Hospital.

“It means better outcomes for patients because we can understand what is going on with patients sooner.”

The program is being implemented at Balmain Hospital, but there are plans for it to be rolled out across Royal Prince Alfred, Concord and Canterbury.

Dementia and Delirium Clinical Nurse Consultant at Sydney Local Health District, Annie Hepworth, says CHOPS is the gold standard for caring for confused patients in hospital.

“CHOPS provides evidence-based tools so nursing staff can better assess patients. We know that when people are confused, generally their length in hospital is twice as long. This program gives staff the tools to identify confused patients quicker which results in better outcomes for patients and their families or carers.”

New single rooms

Fourteen new single rooms at Balmain Hospital will soon be open following months of work and a funding boost from the State Government last year.

“A capital works project of this size is something really special for Balmain Hospital,” says acting general manager Kiel Harvey.

“I know all the staff have been really excited by the additional space and new environment that capital works have created.”

All single rooms now have an ensuite, with four rooms purpose-built for bariatric patients with ceiling hoists and other necessary equipment.

The colours and finishes used assist patients with dementia or delirium.

“Understanding that an older person with dementia will probably perceive their surroundings differently is the main premise behind ensuring floor and wall colours in the new rooms are carefully considered,” says Mr Harvey.

“Good design can help enormously in making it easier to interpret and navigate a building safely and colour and contrast can be used in different ways to assist with this,” he said.

LOOKING AHEAD 2017–18

• eMeds will go live in early 2018. eMeds is a whole of system approach providing a patient’s medication history, allergies and ADRs as well as all medications and IV prescribed and administered. The system also provides pharmacy verification and decision support, as well as management of scripts and medication discharge information.

• The ‘Balmain Beats’ program will be implemented to provide individualised music therapy for patients. This program will build off the successes of the Canterbury Hospital Music and Memory Program.
Connecting the young and young at heart

When the young children from Balmain Children’s Centre arrive for a play date with the patients of Balmain Hospital’s Transitional Care Unit, the smiles can be seen everywhere.

Following the success of a pilot program, the playgroup is the first of its kind in NSW Health and is usually held weekly during school terms as part of the hospital’s diversional therapy program.

Acting general manager Kiel Harvey says the idea stemmed from a project led by former staffer Mollie Boland Anderson.

“The social interaction between young and old has proven successful and Mollie’s project was anchored on similar services in nursing homes and private facilities that have shown improvement in the emotional wellbeing of both young and old.”

“Some of the children have grandparents who live overseas or they are no longer around. Connecting the kids with the elderly adds a positive new dimension to the playgroup experience,” he says.

The Director of Balmain’s Children Centre, Roberta Wansey, says the results of the playgroup speak for themselves.

“It has been really great to see the engagement between the children and elderly patients as they participate in activities and conversation. The children would always ask about the playgroup each week and were excited to go. When we’d turn up at the hospital, you’d always see both young and old faces light up instantly,” she says.

For former patient Mary, the playgroup has reminded her of her youth.

“They’re gorgeous kids, just the look on their faces,” she says.
Music to our ears

Aged care patients at Concord and Canterbury hospitals were among the first in Australia to participate in a new program using music to improve their stay.

Patients were given iPods with personalised playlists of music from their favourite era – and the results were impressive.

“It triggers the memory, they are less anxious and, for some, it’s helped them sleep better. We’ve even had patients dancing as they sing loudly to the music,” says nurse manager, Amal Kadri.

For 88-year-old Rebecca Whitbread, a dash of the Rat Pack took her mind off her pain after a hip injury.

“I love Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr and, of course, Elvis Presley. And my favourite song of all time is Tony Bennett’s I Left My Heart in San Francisco.”

The Music and Memory program, run by the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation and Arts Health Institute, was a joint winner of the NSW Health in the Arts start-up grant last year.

Checking in made simple

Canterbury Hospital rolled out ‘My Check in for Surgery’ as a way of improving patient and clinician satisfaction and hospital efficiency, by taking a patient-centred approach to bookings for adult surgical services.

Complex Care Coordinator Judy McGlynn said the changes included a review of communication, screening and assessment tools, booking processes, roles and responsibilities, accountability and escalation processes.

“We identified a lot of scope for improvement after consulting with the patients and clinicians who were not satisfied with the processes and waiting times,” Ms McGlynn said.

Improved patient health literacy resources have helped improve efficiency with the introduction of clinician developed and consumer reviewed brochures, letter templates and text messages.

“100 per cent of patients interviewed said they had an adequate amount of information about their operation and a good understanding of the information that was given to them,” she said.

The project has improved patient and clinician satisfaction with pre-admission processes by reducing the average time spent in the pre-admission Clinic to less than two hours; reducing the proportion of low-risk patients required to attend a full pre-admission clinic and reducing patient related day of surgery cancellations.

LOOKING AHEAD 2017–18

• The Outpatient Transformation Program started in the Antenatal Clinic in June as a pilot to create a positive experience in outpatient clinics. Next year, there will be consultation with consumers and staff in order to improve outcomes across outpatient services.

• The hospital is implementing ‘Complicity’, which surveys all patients who have been an inpatient or outpatient. The Canterbury Cares project will utilise the results of the Complicity consumer feedback data, People Matters survey, local staff surveys and focus groups on how we can improve our care.
Rehab close to home

A new cardiac rehabilitation service at Canterbury Hospital has saved patients travelling out of area for follow up care. The service is available twice a week and helps patients fulfil a lasting recovery, says cardiac care nurse Antoniette Arrastia.

"Before we opened the service, patients who have had an acute incident and need cardiac rehabilitation would have had to travel to RPA, Concord or Bankstown hospitals.

"Patients attending our service have 10 sessions over five weeks which includes education from occupational therapists, social workers, physiotherapists, nurses, dieticians and pharmacists," she says.

Cardiac rehabilitation can improve a person's quality of life and help prevent future events for those with stents or surgery.

"Since the service opened, we have had 30 patients successfully complete the program. The mix of education and exercise sessions highlight the importance of eating well, information about the heart and cardiac risk factors and promote incorporating exercise into their daily routines," says Ms Arrastia.

Patients who had previously led a sedentary lifestyle are now exercising five days a week.

"After patients have completed their sessions, they are referred onto other exercise classes in the local area to help them to continue their progress and reduce their cardiac risk factors."

WHY I DO

WHAT I DO

Joseph Matta
Acting Security Manager
Canterbury Hospital

My biggest achievement has been in increasing rapport between our security staff, patients and staff. I recently received the STAR treatment award for commendable service for the way I helped staff in supporting the family of a patient in ED who passed away. I love helping other people and that's why I work in security because a large part of my job is about assisting people.
$341 million upgrade

This year Concord was granted a $341 million upgrade and, in the words of Health Minister Brad Hazzard, is set to become a “Bobby Dazzler of a hospital”.

The development will include a new comprehensive cancer centre, the nation’s first Defence Force Centre of Excellence, additional inpatient beds, enhanced ambulatory care services, enhancement and co-location of the ANZAC clinical research centre and new ward accommodation for aged care, psychogeriatric and rehabilitation services.

Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Dr Teresa Anderson says the upgrades will help us deliver comprehensive services to one of the fastest growing communities in the state.

“Concord Hospital is a very special place with a strong reputation in patient care, research and support for veterans. This funding is a very welcome boost for patients and for our amazing staff and I can’t wait to see the exceptional services offered.”

Minister Hazzard said the funding would prepare Concord Hospital for the future.

LOOKING AHEAD 2017–18

- $10 million was allocated in the 2017–18 NSW budget to ensure the hospital can start work on the redevelopment in the second half of the year, with works to be staged to minimise disruption to patients and staff and keep the hospital operating during construction.
- Plans to refurbish several operating theatres will go ahead next year. Work on theatres 7 and 8 will start in December 2017 followed by theatres 9 and 10 in the next financial year. The last phase of the program will enable the remaining four theatres in the operating suite to meet the projected growth in demand and ensure our patients continue to receive the best level of care.

Forest fun for little ones

Our staff are always thinking up better ways to deliver healthcare and this one is a feast of fun for the littlies.

Concord Hospital’s emergency department waiting room now has a special area featuring brightly painted wall murals, mushroom seats, toys and beanbags.

The transformation is part of a project to improve waiting areas across all of our hospitals and health centres.

And it’s already a hit with ED staff.

“It is great to have a warm, inviting and child-friendly space separate to the waiting area,” says nurse manager Jenni Thorncraft.

“It’s not just about patients, but their families and visitors. We want to make families as comfortable as possible.”

Last year, Croydon Health Centre added new children’s toys and activities into its waiting area with funding from our innovation program, The Pitch.

Concord also opened a new five-bed short stay unit in the emergency department this year.

“The dedicated Short Stay Unit allows our doctors to expeditiously assess and care for patients so they can return to the comfort of their home at the earliest possible time and prevent unnecessary prolonged stays in the hospital,” says acting general manager Dr Steevie Chan.

75 years young

Concord chalked up 75 years in 2016 with a black tie gala dinner attended by more than 500 staff past and present, veterans and residents.

The evening included speeches from former NSW Governor, Dame Marie Bashir, District Chief Executive Dr Teresa Anderson, and ANZAC Research Institute Chairman, Bob Lusby.

There was a moving short film about the history of the hospital – which when it opened in 1943 was the tallest building in Sydney – and was said to be “so far from Sydney that no doctors would ever go and work there”.

Sydney Local Health District
Other speakers included returned servicemen and a cancer survivor undergoing new treatments made possible by the close association between doctors at Concord Hospital and researchers at the ANZAC Institute. The evening was topped off with a $50,000 donation presented to the ANZAC Research Institute by Rotary Club of Concord, the Concordians Association, and Concord Hospital volunteers.

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Home away from home for burns victims

This year we opened the state’s first “home away from home” for regional and rural burns patients on the spectacular Yaralla Estate in Concord. Hyacinth Cottage allows patients to reside close to Concord Hospital for follow-up care while cohabiting with their families.

For Dale Hennessy, who lives 30 kilometres out of Trangie in the state’s west, the cottage allowed him to return to normal life sooner with partner Bronwyn Sharpe and daughter Maddison, 6.

Dale, 39, suffered burns to 15 per cent of his body when he fell into a fire pit at a party in Dubbo. He was flown to Concord for a six day admission in the burns unit.

“The pain was unbelievable,” he says of the accident. “Two mates managed to pull me out and get me under a shower. They saved my life.”

After being discharged from the unit, Dale spent a week in the cottage, which sits on 14 hectares of parkland.

“It’s better than a motel room,” he says. “You can cook your own meal and I can be with my family. We’re a long way from home so it’s been really good in the cottage. Maddie and I take walks around the estate and it’s spectacular.”

---

Jan Bell
Volunteer and consumer representative
Concord Hospital

I started as a student nurse in 1957 and have worked here in a variety of roles for almost 50 of those years. Believe it or not, one of the things which drew me to Concord was the colours of the student nurses’ uniforms. It was made in remembrance of its first patients, members of the armed forces and war veterans.

My main focus now is helping in the marketing and fundraising department, I feel so privileged to still be a part of my training hospital, to feel that I am a valued member of a team and that there’s always something rewarding and memorable happening.
In 1977, Derek Hansen didn’t think he was long for this world.
He was 33 and had already spent years on dialysis.
But his luck changed thanks to a selfless act by his brother and the extraordinary transplant team at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.
Derek is now one of the longest surviving post-transplant patients, and living proof of the miracle of renal medicine.
This year, the RPA renal unit celebrated 50 years since the first kidney transplant and dialysis service in 1967.
As one of the first hospitals in the world to transplant a kidney from a living donor, the average one year organ transplant success rate was about 60 per cent when the service started.
Since 1967, more than 2750 patients with kidney failure have received a transplant at RPA, and the team widely is regarded as one of the world’s leading.
Last year, RPA performed a record 117 kidney transplants and is on track to exceed this mark in 2017.
Our dialysis service is one the country’s largest, providing more than 28,000 dialysis sessions annually in the hospital’s 45-machine satellite centre or in their own home.
Professor Steve Chadban, director of renal medicine, said the service had profound success in its 50 year history.
“End-stage kidney failure is a severe, life-long affliction and although transplantation is not a cure, it is a transformative medical procedure and it’s the best treatment we’ve got.
“We are doing twice the number of transplants we were eight years ago, due largely to greater community support for organ donation. Medical improvements have made it possible to make greater use of organs from deceased donors, and the generosity of living donors has continued to save lives.
“Our patient outcomes are excellent, with a one year post-transplant success rate of 98 per cent – as good as or better than anywhere else in the world.”
As a grandfather of three, 73-year-old Derek Hansen has lived his life to the full, thanks to RPA.
“The care I’ve received has been remarkable. RPA offers the best care in the world, without a shadow of a doubt. This is a celebration of 50 years of lifestyles and opportunities that have been given to thousands of people. What an amazing gift.”

Peritoneectomy service launches
The state’s second peritoneectomy service opened at RPA this year, complementing the service available at St George Hospital in Kogarah.
“The state’s second peritoneectomy site at RPA will operate under some of the world’s best surgeons for this rare and complex procedure, which may be the only cure for some patients,” the NSW Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard, said.
“Given the increasing number of people who could benefit from this procedure, the new site will ensure their clinical needs are met.” Professor Michael Solomon, Academic Head of RPA’s advanced gastrointestinal surgical program and a world expert in pelvic exenteration, is leading the specialist team.
“RPA has a proud and extensive track record of ground-breaking achievements in surgery and research, and is one of best clinical and research hubs in Australia and the world so we are very excited to provide this service,” Professor Solomon said.
“An extended specialist team has been recruited, including an international peritoneectomy specialist (Professor Brendan Moran from the United Kingdom) and a specialist ward has been created at RPA for advanced gastrointestinal surgery patients. Patients will also be actively followed to understand the long term effects of this surgery.”
RPA will work closely with St George Hospital, creating a world-leading specialist network, and is expected to perform about 60 peritonectomies in 2017-18.

Southern hemisphere’s first robotic training institute opens
This year, RPA became home to the southern hemisphere’s first training centre for robotic surgery.
The RPA Surgical and Robotic Training Institute was officially opened by the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Brad Hazzard and is an Australian-first partnership between Sydney Local Health District, Device Technologies, da Vinci Surgical Systems and the University of Sydney.
The RPA Surgical and Robotic Training Institute trains surgeons from across Australia and Asia in robotic techniques for cardiovascular, urology,
LOOKING AHEAD 2017–18

• A new staff car park will be finished early next year. The nine-storey car park will provide much needed parking spots for staff and will include CCTV, lighting and emergency call points for security and safety. Access to the staff car park will be on Brodie Street via Carillon Avenue.

• By October 2018, 34,000 units of lights varying from fluorescent lights and halogen globes will be replaced with LED (light emitting diode) alternatives. LEDs help to save energy and have a considerably longer service life.

RPA is amazing and it’s great to see the commitment to doing better for our patients,” Mr Hazzard said.

“The manoeuvrability of the da Vinci to have the capacity to come from any direction takes us to a whole new level and the range of surgeons to be trained in effective use of 21st century robotics will be incredible,” Mr Hazzard said.

RPA surgeon Professor Paul Bannon said every patient undergoing robotic surgery would be part of a research project so medical students and surgeons of the future could benefit.

“Robotic surgery is one of the greatest advances in surgery in decades and is allowing surgeons to pioneer new techniques and perform complex procedures with more precision, flexibility and control than is possible with conventional techniques,” Professor Bannon said.

“For our patients, robotic surgery means fewer complications, such as surgical site infection, less pain and blood loss, quicker recovery and smaller, less noticeable scars.”

Until now, surgeons have had to travel to the United States or Europe to learn robotic techniques.

WHY I DO WHAT I DO

Dr Brian Fernandes
Resident Medical Officer
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

For any person wanting to be a doctor, never forget that you’re a person first. It’s really easy to go through the long road of medical training and neglect the things that make you happy.

I want to be an advocate for my patient’s health. I’ve had the privilege to be involved in the Red Resident Program this year at RPA. It’s a junior doctor led initiative to help support our intern colleagues during their first year as a fully fledged doctor. The culture of mentorship is one that transcends throughout all levels and makes this such a rewarding place to work.
After 30 years as a dental therapist, Elizabeth di Meco knows prevention is key, and loves working with children at the Marrickville community oral health clinic.

Seven year-old Claudia Cheung visits Elizabeth in the clinic every six months and patiently has her teeth checked. Claudia's mother, Trish, loves coming to the clinic where the staff are gentle and caring.

"I found out about the service from a neighbour and I wish I’d been earlier. Now, I bring all three of my kids here and it’s a sigh of relief that something like this is provided.”

Elizabeth has always worked with children but is seeing more tooth decay in toddlers.

“ Tooth decay is totally preventable with a healthy diet. It breaks my heart to see two year olds coming in with tooth decay. “

“I remind all my patients that when you’re brushing there is no rushing. And I remind the parents, to supervise their children brushing their teeth and to limit surgery drinks.

“Many parents are learning for the first time about how to brush properly. They don’t know unless someone tells them and that’s what we are here for.”

The District offers accessible, friendly community oral health clinics at four sites in Croydon, Concord, Marrickville and Canterbury, providing free general treatment for children up to 18 years of age.

Patient comfort the winner

Providing the best in patient comfort and recovery was the winner at the final round of The Pitch last year.

Sydney Dental Hospital’s special care dentistry department received funding for sensory tools including specialised pillows, hand-held massagers and weighted blankets to improve the experience for patients with special needs.

“The special care dentistry department provides oral care for patients with intellectual disabilities, medical, physical or psychiatric conditions including dental phobia,” says the unit’s dental officer, Zanab Malik.

“The aids will help to reduce anxiety, provide distraction and improve patient comfort, reducing the need for general anesthetic.”

LOOKING AHEAD 2017–18

• A new patient management system, Titanium, will be implemented.
• Further developing models of care for establishing the primary health clinic to cater for the holistic health care needs of patients and visitors who attend Sydney Dental Hospital.
• Continuing to support and strengthen our relationship with educational institutions that provide dental education programs including the University of Sydney, University of Newcastle and TAFE.
Forensic dentistry awards

Two of our forensic dentists were given top honours by the Australian Federal Police for their work in sourcing the dental records of passengers on Malaysian Airlines flight MH17, shot down over the Ukraine in 2014.

Dr Russell Lain and Dr William Saunderson, from the Sydney Dental Hospital, helped identify the Australians among the 283 passengers and 15 crew killed in the crash.

The two have been identifying Australian disaster victims for more than 20 years, and worked on the 1997 Thredbo landslide, the 2002 and 2005 Bali bombings and the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, which killed more than 230,000 across 14 countries.

“In the MH17 investigation, we worked in the ante mortem team which involved sourcing the dental records of the 38 Australian victims on board, and entering it into a database that would help the team on the ground identify them,” says Dr Lain.

In many disasters, forensic odontologists also x-ray the teeth of victims delivered to mortuaries and compare them with the person’s dental records to make a positive identification.

“To have a loved one returned is a significant part of the grieving process,” says Dr Saunderson.

“Some families do not know what happened to their loved one so to be able to identify someone and bring them home has a big effect on a community. You are helping people,” says Dr Saunderson.

For Dr Lain, it is “a way for an ordinary dentist to make a substantial contribution to the community.”

But it does have a cost.

“When you walk into a disaster zone and see scores of bodies lying there, it does have an emotional effect,” he says.

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WHY I DO
WHAT I DO

Dr Harleen Kumar
Head of Department
Paediatric Dentistry
Sydney Dental Hospital

Working with children is very rewarding. They are fun, spontaneous and loving little souls. Knowing I can create an enjoyable experience for them when they visit the dentist, or when I can perform a challenging dental procedure on an anxious child and they walk out happy and proud provides instant gratification. There aren’t many professions where you get to feel like that daily.
RPA launched the Australian-first BPTOK wellbeing program for junior doctors following a spate of suicides across Australia.

The program teaches trainees to manage traumatic and emotionally challenging events, skillfully debrief, recognise early symptoms and signs of significant stress or burnout and prevent and manage it early, maintain perspective and social connection, reduce exam performance anxiety, build regular exercise, nutrition and sleep hygiene practices into their schedules, and normalise seeking help when required.

“The program will be delivered in protected teaching time because we believe these skills are as valuable as learning other life-saving skills like CPR,” says Dr Imre Hunyor, RPA’s Medical Superintendent.

“Healthy doctors mean healthy patients, and this has to be good for our society.”

The program attracted interest from both the NSW Health and Mental Health ministers, universities, national and international vocational training programs, and other field. If successful, it may be rolled out across the state.

Sydney Local Health District established the Child Health Information Link – a one stop intake line for all Child and Family Health Services available to families locally, including allied health and community paediatrics. CHIL connects parents, carers and professionals with services, information and resources on child health and development.

Strengthened community engagement through consumer advisory committees, community consultation and engagement in planning and service delivery, including implementing the largest peer worker program in mental health in Australia.
Surgical records set with 113 liver transplants in 2016, up from 98 in 2015, and 117 kidney transplants up from 100 in 2015. Also, 600 pelvic exenterations completed with the best five-year survival rates of any centre in the world.

Sydney Health Partners received a $2.25 million grant from the Medical Research Future Fund, as part of the Rapid Applied Research Translation program.

The fifth annual Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium attracted more than 2000 people over three days and saw the launch of the Big Idea, offering pre-seed funding to commercialise research, the first Sydney Robotic Summit and presentations by more than 40 researchers, staff members and partners.

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Awards aplenty, including the Premier’s Award for RPA’s Transfer of Care program; the Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management for electronic medication management at Concord; Australian Medical Association’s Teacher of the Year Award to Dr Bethan Richards and TMF awards for The Pitch, STARS and the Fire Simulation Unit.

The Community Health Service implemented the Healthy Families Healthy Children Sustained Health Home Visiting Program. This program aims to promote the health and development of mothers, families and their children, by helping families, particularly mothers, to care for themselves and to interact with their children in ways that support child physical, emotional and social development.

Concord Hospital established a new Scar Clinic, appointing internationally renowned expert Dr Andrea Issler-Fisher, the only surgeon providing Ablative Fractional CO2 Laser treatment to adult burns scars on the east coast of Australia.

Year in Review 2016–17
Finding breast cancer early improves survival.
The NSW Mental Health Minister, Tanya Davies, officially launched the District's innovative Living Well, Living Longer program at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital this year.

Physical health problems, such as diabetes and heart disease, are common in people living with mental illness. Life expectancy of people with enduring mental illness is up to 25 years less than the general population. These chronic health problems are responsible for most of this early death.

The Living Well, Living Longer combats that inequity with a “one stop shop” where people with severe mental illness can access endocrinologists, psychiatrists, cardiologists, sleep physicians, nurses, dietitians, exercise physiologists and smoking cessation experts all in the same clinic.

It has been a lifesaver for patients such as Savannah Smith, who previously had to visit multiple specialists across Sydney and sometimes struggled to be taken seriously.

“In the past when I’ve had a problem, it felt like they were thinking ‘oh, she’s just mental’ but here I’ve been treated with such respect and I want people to know how important this clinic is to people in my situation. Just because you’re a mental health patient, it doesn’t mean you’re a second class citizen.”

In the Community

Aged Health, Chronic Care, Rehabilitation and Endocrinology, and General Medicine

• The new Sydney Local Health District Diabetes Plan will improve integrated care of patients at Canterbury Hospital who are living with diabetes. As part of the expansion, an additional endocrinologist will be added at Canterbury.
• Develop the Residential Care Outreach plan with planned additional recruitment of nurses, with enhanced medical governance to provide health solutions for people in aged care facilities.

Aboriginal Health

• Launch and roll out of Sydney Local Health District’s Aboriginal Health Plan 2017–22. The plan is the District’s ongoing commitment to close the gap in health outcomes and life expectancy between Aboriginal people and other Australians, and ensure it remains closed.

Allied Health

• RPA Nutrition and Dietetics will complete the implementation and evaluation of the gastrostomy care training program and make recommendations for development of an ongoing training program.
• The Allied Health Strategic Plan will be reviewed and updated to reflect the evolving strategic vision for Allied Health across the District.

Living longer for all

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Looking Ahead

2017–18
IN THE COMMUNITY

Catch a vein

A device to help detect veins when taking blood has made it easier for mental health clients at Redfern Health Centre.

The vein visualisation device, funded from a successful Pitch application at the Innovation and Research Symposium, is now available for mental health clients attending a weekly GP clinic at the centre.

The District’s Mental Health Service Collaborative Care Coordinator, Petrina Rimmer, made the Pitch application and was delighted to see it put to use so quickly.

“We had a client who usually has to go to St George Hospital to have blood taken. We couldn’t see or feel a vein and after one attempt we used the device. We could see a vein straight away and the client was very happy with the result.”

The weekly GP clinic is for mental health clients who do not have a regular GP, so their physical health can be treated and conditions monitored.

“The clinic is important to be able to offer existing clients a one stop shop, not to refer them elsewhere but to build their trust and to limit any emotional or physical discomfort,” she said.

“Our patients may need blood taken twice per year, and some more regularly, but it can be enough of a challenge for them to fast and come to the centre.

“When they do, we want to make sure the experience is as painless as possible. For client Michael Frape, the device has made a big difference.

“I think it is an outstanding device. It helps take away the anxiety of having to go in to hospital just to get blood taken.”

Forging ahead in Green Square

The District is forging ahead with plans for a new multidisciplinary health clinic in Green Square.

The RPA HealthOne East centre will feature an academic general practice centre, population health and other community based services to support neighbouring hospitals.

It will co-employ general practitioners and allied health professionals who will work and train at RPA to provide a way of “meeting our community’s growing health care needs while ensuring our staff gain varied skills and experiences to deliver patient centred care effectively and efficiently,” Chief Executive Dr Teresa Anderson said.

The area’s population will skyrocket to reach 61,000 people by 2031, making it one of the densest urban areas in Australia.

“We want our patients in this growing area to have access to the very best medical care without having to go far from home,” Dr Anderson said.

The importance of how big of an impact RPA HealthOne East will make to the community was highlighted at the Green Square Health and Wellbeing Forum last year. The event showcased evidence based practice, consultation with key partners, industry groups and community partners as well as future education, research and development opportunities.

Dr Anderson said a new model of care in the community would bring better services closer to people’s homes, reduce travel times and those with chronic diseases would have quicker access to the services they needed.

RPA HealthOne East will offer outpatient and specialist clinics for those living with chronic diseases, services which Counterpoint Community Services operations manager and committee member, Bill Yan said will have big impacts within the community.

“Overall well-being is a much more wholesome approach, especially for a new development such as Green Square,” Mr Yan said.
Fairness for all

The District held its inaugural EquityFest this year, with more than 230 people from a range of organisations, both government and non-government, coming together with community members to share understandings, experience and thoughts on tackling exclusion, injustice, isolation and inaccessibility. EquityFest highlighted the need to strive for a strong and inclusive community – because achieving a connected community will have positive health impacts for individuals and the community at large.

EquityFest created a set of principles for a just and inclusive Sydney and the Equity Challenge invited groups to pitch for funding to improve the fairness of our services.

10 years serving the Marrickville community

Marrickville Health Centre celebrated 10 years since it opened its doors at 155 Livingstone Road in Marrickville in October 2006.

The multi-purpose centre houses a number of community-based health services and offers a range of clinics for the local community.

“Marrickville is a great one-stopshop health centre which integrates many services both for specific groups and the general community,” said the District’s general manager of health centres, Madeleine Kitchener.

Child and family health nurse manager, Jeanette King, has been located at the Marrickville centre since it opened and said it has always been a great hub for the local community.

“We do home visits to families of all newborns in the area and can refer families for clinic appointments at the centre when needed.

“We also run weekly new parents groups throughout the year and breastfeeding and solids sessions for mothers.”

Jeanette says the centre’s best asset is being co-located with oral health, social workers, mental health and allied health professionals who can provide additional care for young children and parents.

LOOKING AHEAD 2017-18

Community Health

• A number of workshops with up to five community nursing services in NSW will take place in 2018 to further improve services to patients and improve processes relating to triage, documentation and clinical intervention.

• Community Health Services will complete its five year strategic plan including a new Sexual Health Strategy and Youth Health and Wellbeing Plan with partnering agencies.

Drug Health

• Drug Health Services will expand access to Quit Smoking Clinics across the District.

• Sydney Local Health District will partner with South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, St Vincent’s Network and the Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network in the roll out of the GP Liaison in Alcohol and other Drugs Project. The shared care project aims to promote Drug Health Services and General Practitioners improve patient health outcomes.

• Two new outreach teams will start operation in 2018. The Assertive Community Outreach Team and Assertive Community Management Team will develop links with other health and welfare agencies and support people with severe substance dependence.

Population Health

• The Public Health Unit will continue to work with aged care services to improve preparedness and management of outbreaks in influenza and gastroenteritis.

• MSH Korean Breast Screening project. Work with Korean health professionals and leaders to understand barriers and enablers for Korean women accessing breast screen services.

• Implementation of Health Food and Drink in NSW Health Facilities Framework.
IN THE COMMUNITY

Saying sorry

“We were just little kids taken away from our families. They took our clothes, our name, our culture but they couldn’t take away our spirit. We still carry the trauma and it is a trauma that is handed down through our DNA. This journey of recognising the trauma is for our children and our children’s children.”

Aboriginal elder Uncle Michael Welsh spoke of his experience at Kinchela Boys Home after being removed from his parents as a child.

His story, at our Sorry Day ceremony at Croydon Health Centre, is a stark reminder that the pain continues for our Stolen Generation and must never be forgotten.

Healthy beginnings for all

Sydney Local Health District is proud to have launched an online service for our families. Healthy Families, Healthy Children is a program of services and resources that supports the best development of children and enables families to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

We know that the foundations for a healthy life are built in childhood. We also know that health and wellbeing in the earliest years of life, even before we are born, helps to keep us healthy as teenagers and adults.

The Healthy Families, Healthy Children website aims to link families living in the District and beyond with a range of health services and resources.

Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson said the website was just one of many ways in which the District was helping families with their child’s development.

“We have so many leading experts and access to so much useful information on how to live healthy lives, that we wanted to try to help people by having one place where we can link our community to all of our services for families and children.”

We provide healthcare to almost 700,000 people living within Sydney’s inner west with 99,000 of those being children.

In addition to the website, our Child Health Information Link is a special telephone service which is available to anyone looking after children in Sydney Local Health District.

“If you are worried about your child’s development, you can call the access line and our health professionals will be able to help direct you to the right health service,” Dr Anderson said.
Changing face of HIV

“Thirty years ago, a HIV diagnosis was a death sentence. There was not much we could do. You would get sick and die. It was like a war zone,” says clinical nurse consultant Garry Trotter.

“Now, there are no HIV inpatient units in Australian hospitals and it is rare to go to hospital for a HIV-related illness.”

Momentous advances in drug therapies, sometimes now as simple as one pill per day, mean those with the virus have a near-normal life expectancy.

“We can now treat people to prevent them from being infected,” Garry says.

“We can be confident that women with the virus can have babies with very little chance of transmission to their child.”

As a gay man, Garry has given much of his personal and professional life to supporting the gay community and those with HIV, including helping set up the first HIV inpatient unit at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Over the past 30 years, he’s lost count of the number of friends who have died from AIDS, and the funerals he has arranged.

But he remains hopeful that NSW will meet its target of ending HIV transmission by 2020, with increases in the number of safe, free and confidential testing services available.

Regular testing for those at risk is essential for the estimated 10 per cent of people living with HIV who don’t know it.

“Twenty years ago, I had no concept we would be where we are now. Who knows what we’ll achieve in another 20.”

Claudia Pollauszach
Clinical Nurse Consultant
Hospital in the Home and Clinical Practice
Sydney District Nursing

This year has been amazing because I won a NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Award in the Excellence in Nursing category for my involvement in the Hospital in The Home model of care.

No two days are the same, but even the bad days are rewarding because you know you’re providing the best care you can to your patients. Perseverance is key in this job and I really love helping my colleagues with increasing their knowledge and skills.
IN THE COMMUNITY

Garden facelift

The courtyards at Croydon Health Centre have been transformed into a place where staff and visitors can enjoy the sunshine and physical activity.

Both the entrance and internal courtyard gardens were upgraded as part of an Aboriginal cultural garden project.

The design of the internal courtyard represents an eel, chosen because of the centre's proximity to the Parramatta River.

The general manager of the District's Health Centres, Madeleine Kitchener, said the facelift was a welcome change.

"Providing areas for staff to have lunch is a great addition and the synthetic grass walking track around the outside will encourage people to be active.

"It will also be a great break out space for children and families who visit the centre."

The front courtyard design incorporates existing features of the garden, including the memorial tree and memorial wall of the old western suburbs hospital.

Sandstone blocks placed in a circle symbolise a 'meeting place' for people to sit, relax, eat lunch or meet others.

A connection between the District's health centres has also been established with a native lilly pilly planted both at Croydon and in the newly planted bush tucker garden at the Redfern Health Centre.
There is new hope for people diagnosed with malignant pleural mesothelioma thanks to a world-first gene therapy trial by Sydney clinicians which saw a significant reduction in tumour size.

Malignant pleural mesothelioma is resistant to almost all forms of therapy and is usually fatal.

Only 40 per cent of patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma respond to standard chemotherapy and the response is usually short lived, offering a survival gain of less than three months.

The trial, which involved clinicians from RPA, Concord Hospital, the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute, Chris O’Brien Lifehouse and Royal North Shore Hospital, saw patients injected with nanocells invented by the biotechnology company EnGeneIC. The nanocells were loaded with a specific microRNA designed to inhibit tumour growth.

The new gene therapy showed clear signs of activity in patients who had exhausted all forms of standard treatment.

“This has created considerable excitement in the scientific world,” said the study’s principal investigator, Professor Nico van Zandwijk.

Mesothelioma is a relatively rare cancer which develops after asbestos exposure.

Congenital heart disease registry launched

This year we helped launch Australia’s first congenital heart disease online registry at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, putting us all a step closer to ensuring people living with congenital heart problems receive the care they need to survive and thrive throughout adulthood.

Congenital heart disease is still the leading cause of death in infants, but due to medical and surgical advances resulting in increased survival, we now have more adults than children living in Australia with the disease – and many need lifelong specialised care.

RPA cardiologist Rachael Cordina says the registry, a joint initiative by HeartKids and the Congenital Heart Disease Alliance of Australia and New Zealand, will help find patients who may have been treated as children but have not seen a specialist since reaching adulthood.

“We know the population has exploded in recent decades but we don’t know how many people are out there with congenital heart disease and what medical, financial and psychological burdens they carry,” she says.

“We are especially reaching out to adults who may have been lost to the health system. Even if you feel OK, you may not be.”

It is likely you still need check-ups to protect you from dangerous complications so please get in touch.”

For patients like Gabriella Hetenyi (pictured), reconnecting with the health system as an adult has been a life saver.

“I was born Tetralogy of Fallot. I lost follow up treatment with my cardiologist at about 14 and felt fine for many years,” she says.

“My advice is to go get checked. Even if you feel OK, you may not be.”

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Mesothelioma breakthrough

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Life-threatening energy drinks

A world-first study by cardiologists from Royal Prince Alfred Hospital found that having just one to two energy drinks could be life-threatening for some young people with no known history of heart disease.

The study, published in the International Journal of Cardiology, found that people born with a genetic cardiac rhythm disorder called Long QT Syndrome are at higher risk of dangerous heart rhythms or even death after consuming energy drinks.

About one in 2000 people has Long QT Syndrome but many are unaware until they undergo an ECG or a relative dies suddenly at a young age.

For some patients with Long QT Syndrome, the first symptom is sudden cardiac death.

The study was conducted at RPA over two years and involved 24 people with Long QT Syndrome aged between 16 and 50.

Patients were given energy drinks or control drinks over a 90 minute period, while undergoing continuous monitoring as well as regular ECGs and blood samples.

“We found patients had a significant increase in their blood pressure of more than 10 per cent after the energy drinks, which was not seen in the control group,” said study lead, Dr Belinda Gray.

“Additionally, while none of the patients in the study experienced dangerous arrhythmias, we did identify dangerous ECG changes in some patients; 12.5 per cent of patients showed a marked QT prolongation of 50 milliseconds or more.

“For ethical reasons, we could only give patients in this study low doses of energy drinks but, the reality is, many young people will consume four or more energy drinks with alcohol in one evening. These drinks are widely available to all young people.”

Heart researcher wins RPA Medal

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital cardiologist Professor Anthony Keech was awarded RPA Foundation’s top prize, the coveted Research Medal for excellence in medical research.

Professor Keech, who is also the Deputy Director of the National Health and Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Centre, received the medal and a $50,000 prize for his lifetime contributions to treating cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

“All of my research depends on big teams of people. Sometimes I am leading those teams and other times I am part of the team. For me, I am accepting the medal on behalf of all the people I’ve worked with rather than patting myself on the back,” Professor Keech said.

His career is a fast paced balancing act between science and medicine, but Professor Keech thrives on the contrast of ward rounds, clinic and the laboratory.

“Research is a constant reminder that you can always help a lot more people through findings which thousands of doctors around the world can implement than you can with face-to-face, one-on-one interactions in the clinic.

“I do clinics every week where I can only see 20 patients a day but with research, over a couple of years, the results might be reaching out to hundreds of thousands of patients at risk of heart disease or those who’ve just had a heart attack,” he said.

Among many breakthroughs, Professor Keech is known for his role investigating the effects of fibrate therapy on heart disease in 10,000 patients with type 2 diabetes and also evaluated its effect on retinal disease. The award enables him to further his research into cardiovascular disease and diabetes, and comes with life changing capabilities.

Professor Keech’s influence on medicine has extended far beyond his own research, through his many PhD students and interactions with colleagues.

“I am thrilled to have been selected and will be putting the prize money toward basic science and clinical work of unblocking arteries and identifying blood markers of complications in diabetes.

“Both projects would involve recruiting masters or PhD students to help with that work and hopefully skill up the next generation of doctors who might do good research,” he said.
Symposium 2017: a day of ideas and joy

The fifth Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium once again set the benchmark in leading health and medical research conferences with thousands gathering across the three-day event.

The inaugural Big Idea showcased the novel ideas that are on the brink of medical commercialisation and the Clinical Trials Showcase and Sydney Robotics Summit brought together leaders in their fields to discuss what’s next in health care.

The main day was abuzz with each session from virtual reality, robotic surgery, hospital ward smart rooms, the Great Debate and presenter Julie McCrossin keeping the delegates enthralled.

There was a touch of youth with the Healthy Families Healthy Children competition inviting schools and childcare centres in the District a chance to receive funding for a health program or innovation.

Love of Learning Early Learning Centre in Croydon Park and Mortlake Public School showed how they are modelling healthy behaviours with their pedometer challenge and mindfulness and meditation program. With $5000 funding, each will invest in new equipment to promote physical activity with students.

The District’s Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson, said the symposium was once again a chance to bring together all areas of health into a day full of ideas and joy.

“The symposium is a true reflection of our District, our people, our partnerships, our collaborations and our spirit. It represents everything we strive for in delivering excellent health care for our community,” she said.

“As a District, we can make significant gains in healthcare and health outcomes for our community and by doing it together, we’ll do it faster.”

App wins $65,000 in international competition

A team of Sydney clinicians has won $65,000 for developing an app which has increased the number of cancer patients enrolling in clinical trials by 60 per cent. The team, from Sydney Local Health District and South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, competed with more than 50 teams around the world and took out second place in the HeroX crowd-sourcing challenge run by the US-based Bonnie J Addario Lung Cancer Foundation.

“ClinTrial Refer is an innovative tool that brings together clinicians, researchers and patients, and is breaking down traditional hospital silos,” says Concord Hospital’s director of haematology clinical research unit, Associate Professor Judith Trotman.

“Clinical trials are vital to patient care. Researchers are constantly striving to find answers to improve the quality of life of our patients, and ClinTrial means better and faster access to their work.”

The prize money will go towards developing similar apps for clinical trials in other medical disciplines.
A “game changing” medical device developed with the support of RPA clinicians has been awarded $1.47 million tonight by the NSW Government’s Medical Devices Fund.

The ‘Oli’ patch, created by mechatronic engineer Sarah McDonald, can monitor pregnancy and labour remotely and has been hailed as one of the greatest advances in foetal monitoring in decades.

Early detection of problems means better management of labour and helps decision making around possible interventions.

The development of Oli was supported by RPA’s head of high risk obstetrics, Professor Jon Hyett, research midwife Hala Phipps and Dr Graham Brooker from the Australian Centre for Field Robotics at the University of Sydney. And, of course, our fantastic team at RPA Women and Babies.

Sarah’s grant was part of $7 million awarded by the Medical Devices Fund tonight. The fund invests in the development and commercialisation of medical devices and related technologies. Since it began in 2013, more than $42 million has been awarded to 24 devices.

Redesign graduates leading the way

Two teams from the District have graduated from the Agency for Clinical Innovation’s Centre for Healthcare Redesign.

Judy McGlynn, Jaroslava Janotka and Lisa Daly set out to improve patient and clinician satisfaction with elective surgery pre-admission processes at Canterbury Hospital, by reducing waiting times and delays.

After improving communication with GPs and the materials preparing patients for surgery, the ‘My Check in for Surgery’ project has seen average wait times reduce from over three hours to less than two hours.

Game changing patch

The District’s Drug Health team of Keren Kiel, Claudia Kefalas and Kerrie Jordan evaluated the Needle Syringe Program with the aim to create an efficient and effective harm minimisation service that delivers improved health outcomes for people who inject drugs.

By redesigning the service in partnership with staff and service users, the team was able to increase the number of brief interventions and referrals and improve the access to primary health care services for those with complex needs.
Phase two of the electronic medical record is now live at Concord Hospital, replacing paper medical records with electronic progress notes, nursing assessments and medical consultation documents. The new system also allows the automatic recording of a patient’s vital signs into their record, and gives clinicians real time access to a patient’s entire record at the click of a button.

Balmain Hospital became the first in NSW to integrate VitalsLink into its electronic medical record system. VitalsLink includes a portable electronic monitoring device that links in with the electronic medical records and can send automatic alerts to treating teams on patient status changes, change in medication, critical lab results or new patient imagery.

The Health Informatics Unit was established as an ICT Research Unit, in partnership with the University of Sydney and e-Health. Headed by a clinical academic, the unit will guide and inform future ICT development.

Sydney Local Health District and eHealth NSW are helping patients keep their type 1 and type 2 diabetes under control, thanks to an innovative digital solution that promotes safe practice for insulin management in conjunction with Powerchart. The Glucose Management Mpage won an eHealth NSW Chief Executive Award for Innovation because of its ability to support the safe transition from paper-based diabetes management and insulin prescribing to the electronic format.
Firstnet and Vitalslink at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital provides quicker access to clinical documentation streamlining communications between RPA ED and other service areas supporting multidisciplinary decision making, improves ED patient waiting times facilitating more efficient workflows with end to end visibility. It also improves patient safety by directly importing vital signs into the eMR.

WiFi infrastructure has rolled out across the District providing mobility for clinical devices and access to the eMR, improving staff flexibility and seamless connectivity to information. Guest WiFi is also now available for visitors and patients making their stay more connected. The WiFi infrastructure allows greater staff mobility, providing laptop users connectivity to corporate applications and data throughout the District, and decreasing the use of paper.

Powerchart Cardiovascular, further decreasing the use of hybrid medical records, better management of clinical workflows and providing access to images and reports in a timely manner.

Internet and Intranet redevelopment are well underway across the District with more than 30 sites redeveloped to standardise the online look and feel. More than 20 new web applications were developed to assist with patient centred care and operational requirements.
Theatre upgrades

Renovations to theatre 14 in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital are the final link between the RPA Surgical and Robotic Training Centre and the Institute of Academic Surgery.

Robotic surgery specialist Dr Scott Leslie said the new theatre was expanded to house the sophisticated da Vinci Xi surgical robot, assisting specialists to continue performing complex procedures in cardiothoracic, urology, gynaecology and colorectal surgery.

“The larger theatre is helpful as the robot is quite large and now we have a lot more space for the anaesthetist, surgeons and nurses in the theatre.

“More room is a bonus especially for cardiac surgery as there’s the additional ECMO by-pass machine in there as well,” Dr Leslie said.

As part of the expansion, the theatre also received an integrated Table Motion that enables the da Vinci Xi Surgical System to reposition the patient while the surgeon operates.

“The table allows us to provide immediate patient repositioning during the procedure and enables us to have better access and angles of the patient during the surgery,” Dr Leslie said.

“The new theatre has communication connections with the training lab and Kerry Packer Theatre for educational purposes so that when we hold symposia, lectures or live surgeries, we can relay that to live audiences.”

Concord Hospital’s cardiac catheterisation laboratory has also been updated this year with new equipment.

Fresh look for respite centre

The Burwood Respite Centre cares for patient with mental health issues.

This year, a new model of step up, step down patient care was developed for patients accessing the community.

The new design allows for 24-hour overnight staff accommodation, and the creation of single patient rooms for privacy instead of the existing shared rooms.
**Revamp for dental patients**

Sydney Dental Hospital underwent a refurbishment this year. Level 4, which is used by general dentistry, orthodontics, periodontics and prosthodontics, specialists and university graduates, now has 17 private surgeries with new chairs, a wet and dry technical unit, a modern sterile stock store and a new bulk store.

Existing toilet and change areas were also upgraded.

The single chair surgeries will deliver improved patient centered care, due to increased privacy for patients.

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**Capital works projects**

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<td>RPA KGV Population Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPA Angiography Suites</td>
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<td>Sydney Dental Hospital Level 4 Surgeries</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPA Operating Theatre 14 (excluding equipment)</td>
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A fantastic response

Once again the employees of Sydney Local Health District rated their workplace as one of the best in the public sector.

The People Matter employee survey, conducted across the NSW public service in June, received 4,504 responses from almost half of all staff across the District.

This year, Sydney Local Health District stood alone with the highest workplace culture score of any district at 63.2 per cent, well above the NSW Health average of 58.6 per cent.

The District also shared the highest employee engagement level score of any local health district at 67 per cent and four out of the six domains of the survey.

Overall, our results in the People Matter Employee Survey were higher than the NSW Health and public sector average across all six domains of the survey, including: senior managers, communication, engagement with work, high performance, public sector CORE values as well as diversity and inclusion.

Our Oral Health Services including Sydney Dental Hospital, recorded the highest improvement across all six domains and an eight percentage point improvement in the culture index, the highest improvement across the District.

Working on it

A new workplace investigations course was developed this year through the Centre for Education and Workforce Development.

The course was developed and delivered in partnership with Workforces Services and other key stakeholders.

A range of courses reviewed during the previous year with Workforce Services have now been successfully delivered and have become cornerstone courses for many professional education pathways across the District.

Assistants program launched

In collaboration with Sydney Local Health Workforce Services, the Centre for Education and Workforce Development launched the first Aboriginal Hospital Assistants Program.

Ten Aboriginal people were recruited into this program. They are offered temporary employment in Sydney Local Health District as hospital assistants while they participate in education and mentoring.

All participants successfully completed their one-week intensive cleaning education program and have now started employment across the District.

To ensure the ongoing success of this program, an advisory committee has been established with representation from CEWD, Workforce Services, hospital- based Human Resources teams, cleaning supervisors and managers.
Planning for a healthy future

Our environment has a huge impact on our health. Living in residential areas which encourage physical activity and provide green space for mental wellbeing is vital – which is why Sydney Local Health District developed a guide to help planners ensure health is considered in all projects in the inner west.

The guide was produced by a multi-disciplinary team from Health Promotion, Public Health, the Health Equity Research and Development Unit and Planning to cover the wide range of issues which impact on the health of the population and sub-populations.

It aims to reduce negative health impacts from the built urban environment through improving health outcomes related to urban development and planning decisions. It focuses on health equity by taking into account vulnerable populations and strives to reduce chronic diseases and other adverse health outcomes by creating an environment that supports healthy living practices.

The guide has been distributed to councils, government departments, property developers, regulators and other local health districts.

The District also led an important discussion with key stakeholders at the Building Better Health in the Growing Inner West forum. Presentations covered the impacts of planned urban growth in the inner west and the link between health and the built urban environment.

Greater Sydney Commission Chief Commissioner, Lucy Turnbull, joined the discussion about Sydney’s health and education super precinct and the importance of planning to provide for our growing community.
Connecting with our community

Sydney Local Health District has a proud history in partnering with our community to enhance our services. There are more than 600 registered volunteers across our District, including 150 consumer representatives.

We have strong community consultation structures in place for providing policy, planning and service delivery feedback to the District and the Board.

Consumers are involved in many aspects of our healthcare planning and delivery inclusive of input into projects and initiatives, our capital works projects, reviewing our publications, and providing important input into service plans.

This year, these included our Workforce Strategic Plan and Aboriginal Workforce Plan, Inner West Sydney Child Health and Wellbeing plan, Oral Health Services Strategic Plan.

Communication is one of the most important tools in all areas of our business.

We also engage extensively with community through traditional media outlets, such as print, television and radio, and our own social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

We have a monthly column in the Inner West Courier newspaper, a monthly eight-page HealthMatters newsletter circulated to all staff, patients, local GP surgeries, health centres, community centres, playgroups and schools, and via our Media Centre on the District’s website.

The annual Year in Review publication is another way in which we continue to strengthen our connections within our community as we continue our vision of excellence in healthcare for all.

From the heart

Sydney Local Health District has a proud history in partnering with our community to enhance our services.

Marija Eftimova is not your typical 24-year-old. After volunteering for the Salvation Army doorknock appeal as a teenager, she was inspired to become more involved in the community, putting her hand up for the Cancer Council, Children’s Medical Research Foundation, the Starlight Foundation and St Vincent de Paul.

Now she’s a regular volunteer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

“I wanted to do something more relatable to my future career.”

She volunteers once a week and aspires to be “a doctor of any kind” once she has finished her honours degree in stem cell research and bone regeneration.

“In my time volunteering, I feel as though my medical degree has made me more understanding of the circumstances patients are in. It’s fulfilling to be able to connect to patients.

They just want someone to be with them, to talk to them,” she said.

“"I would definitely recommend volunteering to anyone, especially those interested in pursuing a medical career. It exposes you to so much of the hospital environment. I feel as though I’ve become part of the health community. The volunteer team are made up of amazing, compassionate people and they give me a sense of belonging, which makes my day.”

Getting amongst it

Reverend Heather Topp became a community representative at Canterbury Hospital because she wanted to be involved in the planning, development, delivery and evaluation of some of our health services.

“I am a consumer representative because it is important to me that not only my family, but also my community, receives the best possible outcomes in the health care system,” she says.

“Each member of our Canterbury Hospital committee brings with them a diversity of interests, backgrounds and experiences which makes for interesting meetings.

“Whether we are identifying patient needs, reviewing signage, critiquing pamphlets or taste testing a new hospital menu there is a wonderful camaraderie and an enthusiasm which is contagious and makes each meeting a positive experience because of each member’s willingness to fully participate.

“As a consumer representative I hope to achieve more inclusion with our First Nation stakeholders and better signage for all community members. I am also hopeful that some of the ideas put forward in the recent community consultations for the hospital redesign will be implemented,” she said.
A lifetime of memories

Our volunteers are at the heart of all we do here across Sydney Local Health District, and this month we got a chance to thank our RPA team for its tireless efforts behind the scenes.

More than 60 volunteers work across RPA washing and ironing patients’ clothes, cataloguing and archiving in the museum, escorting visitors through the hospital, visiting lonely rural and overseas patients, welcoming visitors at the Concierge Desk, assisting patients with meals and enthusiastically selling crafts and other goods.

Danny Sampson has been volunteering for more than eight years and loves working in the hospital museum. She was born in King George V building in 1944; her mother was a former head of physiotherapy and occupation therapy and Danny went on to have a long career herself in pathology, working at RPA for nearly two decades.

“I volunteer simply because it is fun and it’s good for me. My history is here. RPA holds a special place in my heart and always feels like family.”

Our staff put together a special video message this month to show at a thank you morning tea. View it online at www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/media.

Danny Sampson with volunteer coordinator Roshini Rajeswaran.

A new way home

Patients at the melanoma clinic at RPA Hospital now have the option to go home from hospital just days following surgery under a new care model with Sydney District Nursing.

The new model is a research collaboration between the melanoma service and Sydney District Nursing, said Associate Professor Robyn Saw, RPA’s melanoma and surgical oncology department head.

“Patients who would normally spend a week in hospital after a lymph node dissection can now return home two days after surgery, with daily home visits by community nurses for up to six weeks,” said Associate Professor Saw.

“The model mobilises patients earlier, aiding their recovery, and is common practice in the USA. But this is the first model of its kind in Sydney.”

44 year-old Darragh McMahon, pictured, came to Australia 22 years ago from Ireland. Many of his twenty years as an excavator driver were spent wearing shorts, and his discovery of a melanoma on his right calf was a big shock.

The melanoma was removed, but further testing meant Darragh needed surgery to remove lymph nodes in his groin.

The father of four was an ideal candidate for the new model, and became the first person to go home from hospital just two days after dissection surgery, with daily care from the Sydney District Nursing team.

“I was a bit worried at first, but once I got used to the idea, it was great to be home. The community nurses were very good and gave me great reassurance,” said Darragh.

“It was far easier to be at home than having the kids come to hospital to visit.”

The melanoma service at RPA performs about 60 dissections each year, and it is hoped many will benefit from the new model, said melanoma clinical nurse consultant Natalie Forster, who developed the model with Sydney District Nursing.

“Patients are carefully selected to ensure they have the support at home and the ability to self-manage.”

100s of patients shared their stories with us

6000 Facebook likes

Page likes

Year in Review 2016–17
Yaralla Festival hit new highs

Sydney Local Health District’s fourth annual Yaralla Festival attracted more than 3500 people to enjoy the sunshine, fun activities and the beautiful grounds of the historic estate.

Some of the youngest attendees described their favourite attractions, which included live music with a performance from members of The Cockroaches, NRL and AFL clinics, magic and balloon twisting, Aboriginal painting, sand art, dance performances and bush tucker tasting as well as dog tricks, tips and a competition.

“The Yaralla Festival was wonderful and was all about health and wellbeing while encouraging the community to come together,” said the District’s Chief Executive Dr Teresa Anderson. “I would like to thank everyone who helped make this day so special.”

Lantern Club turns pink

The amazing people at the Lantern Club in Roselands raised $100,000 to help us open our new BreastScreen NSW site in Campsie.

The Canterbury area has one of the lowest breast screening rates in NSW and we know language is a barrier so the funds were used to employ a Community Engagement Officer and interpreters to work with non-English speaking residents.

And it has worked with more than 4500 women screened at the Campsie site in its first year – and 80 per cent of them were from non-English speaking backgrounds.

This year, funds raised will go towards a new vacuum-assisted biopsy system for women visiting the BreastScreen Centre at RPA and campaigns and advertising to reach more non-English speaking residents.

What a bloody effort

This year’s ‘A Bloody Great Night Out!’ fundraiser for Concord Cancer Centre raised more than $151,000.

The money will go towards world-leading blood cancer treatment and research so more people can participate in life-saving clinical trials at Concord Hospital.

Since 2005, 400 patients with blood cancers have participated in clinical trials at Concord Hospital, giving them access
Growing success at the Rivendell Flower Show

Excitement, floral displays and live music filled the air as more than 3000 people gathered on the grounds of the beautiful Thomas Walker Estate at Concord Hospital for our first ever Rivendell Flower Show.

The much anticipated event, hosted by Professor the Hon Dame Marie Bashir, consisted of more than 40 different programs and activities.

Visitors to the show got to experience masterclasses with floral artists, shop through unique stalls, have high tea and the opportunity to meet with experienced landscape designers and industry experts including Don Burke and ABC’s Helen Young.

The Rotary Club of Breakfast Point kicked off the fundraising efforts with a $10,000 donation which will support Concord Hospital’s aged care services, in addition to money from all tickets sold.

Raising a glass for cancer patients

About 11,000 Australians were diagnosed with cancer in July this year alone, which is why we raised a glass, and funds, for the Concord Cancer Centre as part of Dry July.

More than $42,000 was raised this year to expand survivorship programs and fund patient comfort items such as chemotherapy treatment chairs, blanket warmers, scalp coolers for hair loss prevention and waiting rooms upgrades.

With a little help from the Wests Tigers, we raised our mocktail glasses for Dry July.

“We hope these funds can help make a difficult time a little easier for those affected by cancer,” said the director of cancer services, Associate Professor Philip Beale.

to cutting-edge medicines, but there are many more patients with leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma who need help.

“It is our reputation for quality and independence that has made us an international research leader delivering truly world-class care locally,” says Associate Professor Judith Trotman.

“Our fundraising efforts help us to be able to continue to deliver this care, for cancer patients now and in the future – but we need the support of the community.”
IN THE MEDIA

FINANCIAL REVIEW
It's not pretty - where tattoo ink can land up

A beautiful tattoo without can have ugly consequences within Anita Kucera

When a woman was referred to Sydney’s Royal Prince Alfred Hospital with numerous lumps under both arms, doctors thought she probably had lymphoma.

SUNDAY PAPER
Mental health care for medical professionals

Dr. Rfhrichards, former neurologist, director of physician training at the RPA, in Sydney.
HEARTS

Australia's first congenital heart disease online registry, Sydney’s Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

The registry means long-term changes in those will be tracked, allowing for improved detection of post-operative complications.

In Australia, an estimated 65,000-90,000 people live with heart disease.

Regardless of age, the life-threatening risk of living with heart disease is severe and can often result in spontaneous cardiopulmonary arrest.

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital cardiologist Dr. Rouch launched the Congenital Heart Disease Alliance (CHAANZ) Institute to improve outcomes and ensure those living with heart disease are not at risk.

It’s the reason why the world’s first adult congenital heart disease registry was proposed.

The registry ensures adults who were born as sick babies get better care.

The New York Times

Doctors Are Human Too

By LISA HIROE APRIL 20, 2017
FINANCE

Actual expenses

- Employee related: $1,009,384,000 (58.3%)
- Other operating: $591,936,000 (34.2%)
- Depreciation: $53,511,000 (3.1%)
- VMOs: $44,155,000 (2.6%)
- Grants and subsidies: $19,257,000 (1.1%)
- Third schedule hospitals: $12,143,000 (0.7%)

Total expenses: $1,730,386,000

Actual revenue

- Patient fees: $93,956,000 (30.5%)
- Other revenue: $214,443,000 (69.5%)

Total revenue: $308,399,000

Source: Annual Financial Statement June 2017

In 2016–17, Sydney Local Health District spent $1.73 billion proving healthcare to the people of NSW and came in on budget.

A total of $1.01 billion was spent on our staff and $44 million was spent on Visiting Medical Officers. Good and services cost $592 million, including maintenance, drugs, medical and surgical consumables and services provided to our residents by other NSW health services.

Our own source revenue included $94 million from patient fees and $214 million from other revenue.

We continue to deliver and manage health services to budget despite the challenges of an ageing population, technological advances in healthcare and complexity in patient conditions.

The District is committed to maintaining open and transparent financial practices with a budget roadshow presenting the latest data around the District again this year, and the Board will continue to monitor our financial position.
**ACTIVITY DATA**

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<th>Hospital or service</th>
<th>Separations</th>
<th>Same day</th>
<th>Same day separations</th>
<th>Total bed days</th>
<th>Acute average length of stay</th>
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*Excludes beds in ED and delivery suite.
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Year in Review 2016–17
BOARD MEMBERS

The Honourable Ron Phillips AO
Chair
The Hon Ron Phillips AO served as Government Whip, Minister for Health and Deputy Leader of the NSW Opposition. After leaving politics, he developed a successful consulting business in the health and aged care industry, providing strategic and detailed advice to government and business clients. Mr Phillips was formerly part owner and managing director of the Sydney Breast Clinic Pty Ltd, and chair of the Sydney Institutes for Health and Medical Research. He is currently a founding shareholder and managing director of BCAL Diagnostics Pty Limited and a director of Westmead IVF.

Dr Barry R Catchlove AM
MB BS FRACP FRACMA FCHA
Deputy Chair
Dr Barry Catchlove has more than 40 years’ experience in healthcare, covering a range of clinical, medical administration and board appointments. He is a Fellow of the Senate, University of Sydney, Chair of the Senate’s Safety and Risk Management Committee and a Member of the Nominations Committee. He was appointed National President of the Australian Hospital Association and Chairman of the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Australian College of Health Service Executives.

Frances O’Brien
Frances O’Brien is currently appointed as Operational Nurse Manager at Balmain Hospital. Mrs O’Brien has worked within the Sydney Local Health Network area for over 20 years during which time she has occupied a number of senior nursing positions. Her experience includes clinical, quality, patient flow, patient liaison, clinical redesign and nursing management. Mrs O’Brien has firsthand knowledge of the changes and challenges faced by staff in delivering high quality health care. Committed to the provision of safe and effective care, she completed her Master of Leadership and Clinical Supervision in June 2011.

David McLean FAIM FAICD
David McLean has a 35-year career in healthcare communications and marketing in Australia, USA and South East Asia at Chief Executive level in a leading multi-national corporation. A co-founder and chairman of the University of Sydney Medical School’s Cancer Communications Unit, Mr McLean is currently a board member of the Faculty of Pharmacy Foundation. He has a passion for patient advocacy and effective professional patient communications.

Associate Professor Christine Giles
BA MA FAIM MAICD
Associate Professor Christine Giles is an experienced board member and brings a wealth of experience in health policy, governance and management in the health sector. Associate Professor Giles is currently the Executive Director and Head of Policy and Strategy at Cancer Australia. Her experience spans the public and private sectors in Australia, and overseas where she was an advisor to the World Bank in health policy reform.

Joanna Khoo
Joanna Khoo is a public health professional with experience in research management, information systems and health policy. Ms Khoo currently works at the Sax Institute, and is completing a PhD in health policy. She has previously held positions focusing on drug and alcohol and mental health service provision and has been involved in research to improve public governance, accountability and transparency in Vietnam.
Susan Anderson
Susan Anderson (Balding) is a Gamilaroi woman, born and bred in Sydney, and a registered nurse who has worked in Aboriginal health for 15 years. Her achievements include guidelines for Aboriginal health workers, a NSW Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery DVD and the NSW Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Cadetship Program. Ms Anderson currently works for Maramali, an Aboriginal organisation with expertise in health and planning, increasing cultural capacity, safety and delivery of aged care services.

Associate Professor Mary Haines
BA Hons (Psych), PhD, GAICD
Associate Professor Mary Haines has worked in senior positions across the government, academic, corporate and independent sectors. She is currently a Senior Adviser at the Sax Institute; Adjunct Associate Professor at the Menzies Centre for Health Policy, University of Sydney; and Director of Mary Haines Consulting. Her expertise lies in health research, translational initiatives, evaluation, strategic policy development and implementation.

Ronwyn North LLB GAICD
Ronwyn North is a professional practice consultant and educator with more than 20 years’ experience providing independent advice in the public, private and not for profit sectors. She is known for her expertise and ‘thought leadership’ in organisational governance and development, professional practice management and professional risk and ethics exposure. Ms North is an external member of University of Sydney Senate’s Safety and Risk Management Committee.
Sydney Local Health District
Head Office
King George V Building
RPA Campus
Missenden Road
Camperdown NSW 2050
T 02 9515 9600
8.30am–5pm
Monday–Friday
www.slhd.nsw.gov.au

PUBLIC HOSPITALS
Balmain Hospital
29 Booth Street
Balmain NSW 2041
T 02 9395 2111
Fax 9395 2020

Canterbury Hospital
Canterbury Road
Campsie NSW 2194
T 02 9787 0000
Fax 9787 0031

Concord Repatriation General Hospital
Hospital Road
Concord NSW 2139
T 02 9767 5000
Fax 9767 7647

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Missenden Road
Camperdown NSW 2050
T 02 9515 6111
Fax 9515 9610

Concord Centre for Mental Health
Hospital Road
Concord NSW 2139
T 02 9767 8900
Fax 9767 8901

Sydney Dental Hospital
2 Chalmers Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010
T 02 9293 3200
Fax 9293 3488

Thomas Walker Hospital
(Rivendell Child and Adolescent Unit)
Hospital Road
Concord West NSW 2138
T 02 9736 2288
Fax 9743 6264
rivendell@sswhs.nsw.gov.au

Yaralla Estate
T 02 9515 9600
Yaralla.EstateCommittee@sswhs.nsw.gov.au

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
Camperdown Child and Family Health Services
142 Carillon Avenue
Camperdown NSW 2050
T 02 9516 3232
Fax 9519 8607

Camperdown – Community Nutrition Service
Building 11, Missenden Road
Camperdown NSW 2050
T 02 9515 6344

Camperdown – Sexual Assault, Violence Prevention and Women’s Health Service
Level 5
King George V Building
Missenden Road
Camperdown NSW 2050
T 02 9515 9040

Camperdown – Sexual Health Clinic
16 Marsden Street
Camperdown NSW 2050
T 02 9515 1200

Chippendale – Youthblock Youth Health Service
288 Abercrombie Street
Chippendale NSW 2008
T 02 9516 2233

Marrickville Child and Family Health Service
Marrickville Health Centre
155–157 Livingstone Road
Marrickville NSW 2204
T 02 9562 0500

Marrickville – Multicultural Health Service
Marrickville Health Centre
155–157 Livingstone Road
Marrickville NSW 2204
T 02 9562 0500

Canterbury Child and Family Health Service
Canterbury Community Health Centre
Corner Thorncraft Parade and Canterbury Road
Campsie NSW 2194
T 02 9787 0600

Canterbury Sydney District Nursing
Canterbury Community Health Centre
Canterbury Hospital
Canterbury Road
Campsie NSW 2194
T 02 9787 0600

Concord Sydney District Nursing
Concord Hospital Building 21
Hospital Road
Concord NSW 2137
T 02 9767 6199

Croydon Sydney District Nursing
24 Liverpool Road
Croydon NSW 2132
T 02 9378 1100

Croydon Child and Family Health Service
Croydon Health Centre
24 Liverpool Road
Croydon NSW 2132
T 02 9378 1100

Redfern Health Centre
103 Redfern Street
Redfern NSW 2016
T 02 9395 0444