It’s official – Concord Hospital is getting a $341 million upgrade and, in the words of Health Minister Brad Hazzard, will become “a Bobby Dazzler of a hospital”.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Treasurer Dominic Perrottet, Minister for Health Brad Hazzard and Drummoyne MP John Sidoti made the announcement last month as part of the NSW Government budget.

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 said the upgrades would provide facilities to deliver comprehensive services for one of the fastest growing communities in the state.

“It’s 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.

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“To all the doctors and nurses at Concord who have spoken to me – I’m very pleased to say that the World War II ramp wards will be consigned to history and be demolished,” he said.
Message from the Chief Executive

This month we introduced new concession parking rates at Royal Prince Alfred, Canterbury and Concord hospitals. The new rates, in place across NSW hospitals, allow eligible patients and carers with a concession card or those who need to attend the hospital frequently for treatment to access a reduced parking rate.

To find out if you are eligible and for details about concession parking rates and how to apply at each hospital, visit parking.health.nsw.gov.au or you can call your local hospital.

We have been fortunate to have two recent visits by NSW Minister for Mental Health, Tanya Davies, who helped us to officially launch our Living Well Living Longer service for people living with severe mental illness. The service provides comprehensive shared medical care at regular clinics at Royal Prince Alfred and Concord Hospitals and focuses on improving physical health.

Minister Davies also toured our specialised mental health services in the Professor Marie Bashir Centre and met with our trainee doctors participating in our Australian-first BPT OK program supporting junior doctor wellbeing.

I look forward to the upcoming budget roadmap presentations which will be held across August. The roadmap allows staff from all areas of the District to gain an insight into how our money has been spent and exciting new projects being funded and I hope to see a number of staff come along.

Finally, thank you to all the staff who completed the People Matter employee survey. Our final response rate exceeded last year’s, with about 40 per cent of staff completing the survey and I look forward to reporting back on the results later in the year.

Dr Teresa Anderson
Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive

Message from the Chair, District Board

It has been a very busy time of year as we celebrated the success of the Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium and the announcement of funding for Concord Hospital.

We welcomed the announcement last month by Premier Gladys Berejiklian along with Treasurer Dominic Perrottet, Minister for Health Brad Hazzard and Drummoyne MP John Sidoti that Concord Hospital would receive a $341 million upgrade. These funds will deliver a large new development at the hospital, including a new cancer centre and Australia’s first comprehensive care centre for Defence Force personnel – a very welcome boost to the patients, staff and wider community of Concord.

I would like to pass on my congratulations to all who were involved in the organisation and execution of the Innovation and Research Symposium at Carriageworks, and to all the presenters who made the day such a fantastic experience. Each year the symposium grows in size and status and it was so enjoyable to hear about the quality of the research and the passion of the people within our District. I have confidence the future of healthcare innovation is in good hands and I look forward to the updates from the winning projects from the Pitch as well as the Big Idea.

Finally, it was great to see the District come together this month to celebrate NAIDOC Week with a special event at Balmain Hospital. Each year we mark NAIDOC week and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements with a special focus this year on Aboriginal languages. We are very proud of the work of our Aboriginal health unit and the contribution our Aboriginal staff make to our health services.

The Hon. Ron Phillips AO
Sydney Local Health District Board Chairman
A touch of virtual reality

Missing a family wedding, birthday or graduation can be a difficult time for patients unable to leave hospital.

The return of the Pitch at the Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium bought with it an innovation for patients to virtually record their family event and allow sick, elderly or immobile patients a truly immersive experience.

The University of Sydney psychology school lecturer, Dr Hamish MacDougall, working with RPA biomedical engineer Leigh McGarvie, said ‘A10D’ is the best alternative to attending the real thing.

“The solution is to virtually transport the patient to the family event. It’s no substitute for the real experience but it’s much better than a couple of photos and we believe it will provide hours of entertainment and happiness for patients stuck in hospital,” said Dr MacDougall.

With $20,000 from the Pitch, supported by Symposium sponsor Bupa and additional funds from the University of Sydney, the research project will evaluate the psychological benefits to patients and costs.

A second Pitch to create an Australian-first web application to streamline the recognition and response to a flu outbreak by public health registrars Dr Kai Hsiao and Dr Laura Collie received $48,000.

“FluCARE will automatically recognise an outbreak and send an alert, saving time for nursing home staff and the public health unit,” said Dr Hsiao.

“By getting in sooner and containing the outbreak, we hope to prevent hospitalisations and deaths,” said Dr Collie.

A pitch for a clinical coder to join the medical ward round with clinicians at Canterbury Hospital to improve coding accuracy and an educational orientation tool for rehabilitation patients at Balmain Hospital will also be supported.

Up, up and away

Construction of the new staff car park at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is progressing.

A 350 tonne crane was recently put in position to progress the construction.

The multi-storey car park located behind the Professor Marie Bashir Centre will deliver an additional 1,000 spaces.

It is expected the car park will be complete early in 2018. More information and updates about the construction progress will be provided in the coming months.
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 healthcare.

The main day Symposium in the new home of Carriageworks 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.

The District’s Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson, said Symposium 2017 was once again a unique chance to bring together all areas of health for 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 healthcare for our community.”

“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.”

Children are the future

It’s never too early to learn the importance of healthy lifestyles.

This year’s Symposium added a touch of youth with the Healthy Families Healthy Children competition inviting schools and preschools in the District to share their health programs or innovations.

Love of Learning Early Learning Centre in Croydon Park and Mortlake Public School are modelling healthy behaviours with their pedometer challenge and mindfulness and meditation program. Each received $5,000 and will invest in new equipment to promote physical activity with students.

Sydney Research Awards and Scholarships 2017

Research Excellence Award for the best publication in a high impact journal
Professor Chris Semsarian AM, cardiologist for ‘A prospective study of sudden cardiac death among children and young adults’
Young Researcher Award
Associate Professor Anne Tiedemann, Principal Research Fellow, University of Sydney
Research Supervisor Award
Professor Janette Vardy, Medical Oncologist, Concord Cancer Centre and Professor of Cancer Medicine, University of Sydney
Annual Health Research Infrastructure Award
Dr Lining Ju, Postdoctoral Research Officer, Heart Research Institute and University of Sydney
Clinician Researcher Scholarship
Brooke Donnelly, Senior Clinical Psychologist, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
VoIP Health Informatics Researcher Scholarship
Merran Findlay, Executive Research Lead, Cancer Nutrition and Oncology Specialist Dietitian, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Chris O’Brien Lifehouse.

For more photos and videos visit the Sydney Local Health District Media Centre slhd.nsw.gov.au/media.
Ever heard of a pen which uses special ink to repair eye injuries?

You have now – and the idea has just been given $44,125 to bring it to reality as part of the Sydney Research Big Idea to provide pre-seed funding to commercialise a healthcare solution.

The corneal BioPen will have “a significant impact on corneal blindness” and is the brainchild of Professor Gerard Sutton and Jingjing Yu of the University of Sydney’s Save Sight Institute.

The special ink used in the pen will simply ‘colour in’ scratches and promote wound healing and could even help soldiers who sustain eye injuries in battle.

“There is nothing else like this and there are many possible applications for its use. The US military have identified that corneal injuries are quite problematic on the battlefield – the BioPen could address the issue,” said Professor Sutton.

“We are shocked and grateful for the funds. It’s very hard to get a start with research like this.”

The BioPen was one of six innovative ideas put forward in the inaugural Big Idea, funded by Sydney Local Health District and the University of Sydney during the Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium. Others 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.

Dr Emma Quinn
Epidemiologist, Public Health Unit

Working in public health is diverse and exciting. I analyse data, supervise trainees, ensure we are prepared for emergencies and help respond to infectious disease outbreaks. My role enables me to focus on redressing any gaps in health outcomes for groups in our community. I really delight in working in a career that is focused on protecting, maintaining and supporting people to be healthy because health is a fundamental human right and I believe being healthy makes us happy.
Symposium Highlights

JULY 2017
IN BRIEF

Respiratory science graduate
The first graduate of Concord Hospital respiratory department’s Aboriginal Identified Science Traineeship, Luke Micallef, has completed a Bachelor of Health Science from Western Sydney University. The innovative initiative was led by Associate Professor Matthew Peters, aiming to provide mentorship and practical employment experience to aid a transition from study to a career for Indigenous students. The opportunity allowed Luke to apply theoretical study to practical work, build relationships with clinicians and explore respiratory science as a potential career path. Luke found the traineeship very beneficial and was grateful for the flexibility and encouragement offered by the team. The respiratory department have now accepted a second trainee to the program.

Showcasing nursing projects
The District’s nursing and midwifery services had a range of projects included in the annual NSW Health Essentials of Care Showcase held in Darling Harbour in May. The Essentials of Care Program aims to enhance the experiences of patients, families, carers and staff involved in the delivery of care through the ongoing evaluation and development of safe, effective and compassionate clinical care workplace cultures. The showcase selected a number of projects from across NSW, with one multimedia presentation and five poster presentations selected from Sydney Local Health District including Balmain Hospital GPC and TCU, RPA green ICU and 7E2, Concord Hospital 3E CCU and 5E Oncology. See details at www.health.nsw.gov.au/nursing.

Privacy Week winners
A number of events and activities on the importance of protecting personal information were held in Privacy Awareness Week in May. Staff were provided with information and a number of useful resources to assist with compliance of the health privacy principles when handling patient and client health information. A privacy quiz tested staff members’ knowledge on information security with Angela Brewer from RPA PET and Nuclear Department and Gemma Smith from infection control at Concord Hospital the lucky winners of a Coles Myer voucher kindly donated by St George Bank.

AIM high
The Accelerating Implementation Methodology (AIM) is a two-day course for staff who want to implement a project or change in the workplace. The course covers a 10 step process for accelerating implementation, a framework to implement changes of any size, type or complexity and strategies to manage resistance. The AIM course is free for NSW Health staff and the next course will be held at Concord from 10-11 August. For further information please contact Performance and Redesign Project Manager on 9395 2370 or email Dimitra.Kaldelis@sswahs.nsw.gov.au.
Farewell to leaders in their field

Last month, we bid farewell to two long-serving senior members of staff.

The District’s director of capital asset and contract services, Deborah Flood, retired after 35 years in the public health system. Deb started her career as a nurse and spent significant time at RPA and in various roles in the capital works department.

We have been very fortunate to have Deb’s wealth of knowledge and experience, which has positioned the District as a centrepiece of excellence in NSW Health, recognised for developing cutting edge and integrated clinical health buildings.

The retirement of Louise Robertson, director of the electronic medical record and deputy chief information officer also comes after nearly four decades with NSW Health in a number of strategic roles with the District.

Louise has been instrumental in the development of our electronic medical record and to the District’s reputation as a leader in public health information technology.

“I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge both Deb and Louise’s significant contributions to NSW Health and thank them both for their commitment,” said Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson.

“Thereir energy and experience will be greatly missed but their retirements are well deserved and I wish them both well for the future.”

EVENTS CALENDAR

RPA Foundation Research Medal 2017
The announcement of the annual RPA medal for excellence and outstanding achievement in medical research. Join for light refreshments from midday and presentation at 1pm.

Friday 25 August, 1pm-2pm
Auditorium, Kerry Packer Education Centre
RSVP by 18 August to research@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

JAM Session (Joint and musculoskeletal pain)
Free education symposium in musculoskeletal disease for GPs, physiotherapists and interested health professionals. Limited seats available.

Saturday 12 August
Dr Chau Chak Wing Building, University of Technology Sydney
Register online and find program details at www.bjchealthjam.com.au

Yaralla Festival
Family fun day out with live entertainment, children’s activities, health and heritage information.

Sunday 10 September, 10am-2pm
Yaralla Estate, Nullawarra Ave, Concord West

Mental Health Symposium
A gathering of Mental Health clinicians, researchers and interested others for a showcase of current and completed research projects from SLHD Mental Health Service.

Friday 11 August, 9am-1:30pm
Concord Medical Education Centre Auditorium
RSVP to Sophie.Isobel@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

HealthMatters is all about you. We would love to hear your stories. Simply email sydneymedia@sswahs.nsw.gov.au