



MEDIA RELEASE

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Hospitals call on community

The administrator of South Western Sydney Area Health Service today called on the local community to join her in backing the staff of Campbelltown and Camden hospitals.

Administrator Associate Professor Debora Picone said that in the wake of continuing investigations into the hospital and the release today (March 31 2004) of the Walker Special Commission of Inquiry interim report, staff were continuing to do an excellent job in difficult circumstances.

A/Prof Picone said that since her appointment in October last year the majority of staff she had met were dedicated individuals.

She said she had been impressed by the increasing support of the local community and local media that had responsibly highlighted the many wonderful success stories during these difficult times.

"This has been a wonderful boost for morale which has been challenged by the delays in the investigation and resolution of these issues for families, doctors, nurses and the people of south western Sydney," Prof Picone said.

A/Prof Picone added that she admired the professionalism shown by staff during the continuing inquiries and the strength of their teamwork in meeting the everyday challenges involved in patient care and saving lives.

"I have seen how hard everyone at these facilities is working to ensure that patients receive the best care possible," A/Prof Picone said.

Securing the support of their local community has been a top priority for staff.

"Many locals have approached me personally to endorse the hospitals," Prof Picone said.

"I am constantly talking to medical, nursing and allied health staff and I know that ensuring the best possible outcomes for patients and their families is their first priority.

"Everyone across the area health service is committed to moving forward.

"Substantial changes have already been made to ensure that areas experiencing problems now have the resources and support to effect the changes needed," she said.

While this is an ongoing process, progress already made includes the recruitment of more than 21 new clinical staff including five new clinical nurse consultants, five extra medical registrars and a director of Surgery.

Other changes include a new staffing and working model in the intensive care unit, led by Liverpool Hospital director of ICU Dr Gillian Bishop and a new renal dialysis unit at Campbelltown Hospital.

The Minister for Health Morris Iemma and NSW Health Director-General have voiced their ongoing support for staff and their commitment to ensuring that the needs of Campbelltown and Camden hospitals are a top priority.

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