



10 December 2004

Bright future for Camden and Campbelltown

Campbelltown and Camden hospitals have seen significant changes in the past 12 months including an increase in funding, services and equipment and more staff.

This includes the announcement in June 2004 of a strategic health plan for the people of south western Sydney *The South Western Sydney Health Network - The Way Forward 2004-2008* which is networking services across South Western Sydney Area Health Service.

The plan is funded to \$26.2 million in the first year (2004/05) rising to \$112 million per annum by 2007/08 and aims to deliver the safest care to patients through an area-wide clinical network while boosting resources to areas of need such as Campbelltown and Camden.

During 2003/04 over \$7 million was allocated to Campbelltown and Camden hospitals for more resources and support needed to meet the growing demand and ensure patient safety.

An additional more than \$7 million has been allocated this financial year, 2004/05, to implement recommendations from *The Way Forward*.

Significant changes already in place to improve healthcare services at Campbelltown and Camden hospitals include:

- The networking of Campbelltown Hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to Liverpool Hospital's ICU under the leadership of intensivist Dr Gillian Bishop

ICU medical cover is now being provided 24 hours a day by staff specialists on rotation from Liverpool Hospital

In an innovative solution to caring for critically ill people who need to be transferred to a tertiary facility, Liverpool Hospital now has an additional \$600,000 funding an ICU bed specifically allocated to cater for patients coming from Campbelltown

- A new renal dialysis service opened in March that will progressively be expanded from six to 10 chairs. Patients no longer have to travel out of the area for life-saving treatment
- A new specialist cardiology service funded by over \$600,000 is now available with a roster of six cardiologists working to develop the hospital as a centre of excellence in heart failure
- A new position of director of Surgery was created with Professor Reginald Lord appointed to lead the Division of Surgery

- Additional acute beds have come on line
- A CT scanning service now provides 24-hour diagnostic capability at Campbelltown Hospital
- Neurology at the hospital has had a boost with the appointment of a neurology fellow with a focus on caring for stroke patients
- More than 30 new clinical staff have been recruited including 5 clinical nurse consultants, an additional staff specialist in obstetrics, 2 additional senior emergency doctors, 3 additional registered nurses to the Cancer Therapy Centre, junior doctors in medicine, emergency and cardiology. Recruitment is continuing for further positions
- There are now 7.4 medical registrars working at the hospital, more than double the number in 2003

The new registrar training network between St Vincents, Liverpool, Campbelltown and Wagga Wagga Base hospitals will see 8 registrar positions at Campbelltown Hospital next year. The registrars rotate through the hospitals in the network to gain broad experience. The network director is based at Campbelltown Hospital

- The networking of the Emergency Department with Liverpool Hospital and the appointment of a joint director of the two departments to be announced in the near future
- Breaking new ground, the Sydney Children's Hospital Macarthur Unit opened at Campbelltown Hospital in August and will be offering paediatric surgery, enhanced paediatric emergency medicine and a specialist service for children with diabetes

The unit brings to Campbelltown services that families would have otherwise travelled to Randwick or Westmead to receive

- A paediatric staff specialist on site, based in the Emergency Department, until 10pm Monday to Friday – Campbelltown is the only non-children's hospital in NSW with this level of cover
- A 20-bed non-acute mental health facility is to be developed at Campbelltown by 2005. This will be the first non-acute mental health facility in SWSAHS and will add to the adult and adolescent mental health services already on the site
- New programs for continuing education for all nursing staff
- The skills and leadership of senior Macarthur clinicians has been demonstrated in paediatrics and general medicine with the area-wide appointments of Dr Andrew McDonald as clinical co-director of Child, Youth and Family Services and Associate Professor Brad Frankum as clinical co-director of complex and Primary Care Services. These positions will drive the direction of service delivery across SWSAHS
- The forming of the SWSAHS Professional Practice Unit in December 2003 to handle high level grievances and complaints. It has clinical, legal and mediation skills. The PPU is the first service of its kind in an area health service and is a model for a new system to be adopted throughout the state
- Approval for a University of Western Sydney Medical School and the appointment of a Dean is a significant boost for academic medicine in the area.

.../3

A new health plan for the people of South Western Sydney

The *South Western Sydney Health Network - The Way Forward 2004-2008* focuses on the development of a healthcare network that will see coordinated services throughout the area to provide equitable access for patients across south-western Sydney.

Campbelltown Hospital will be the centre for academic general medicine and a leading site in paediatrics, ambulatory care, colorectal surgery and mental health services.

The new plan will see Campbelltown Hospital progressively develop towards principal referral hospital status with subspecialties in medicine and surgery.

Specific changes to be implemented as part of the plan include enhancement of subspecialty services in key areas such as cardiology, neurology and respiratory medicine.

It will also see the expansion of acute services at Campbelltown Hospital with the addition of intensive care beds and high dependency beds.

Camden Hospital will maintain a complementary role with Campbelltown Hospital, offering rehabilitation, normal risk maternity, palliative care, emergency medicine and an extensive day surgery program with ambulatory care.

For further information contact South Western Sydney Area Health Service Public Affairs on 9828 5700.