

# Healthtalk

June 2004

Better Health, Good Health Care

## More beds and staff for mums and babies

The recommendations were the result of an eight-week intensive investigation...

More beds, extra senior staff and a wide Maternal and Perinatal Service network were the core recommendations for SWSAHS following a review by the State's leading neonatologist, Professor David Henderson-Smart.

Professor Henderson-Smart, director of the NSW Pregnancy and Newborn Services Network, said the aim was to establish an Area-wide Maternal and Perinatal Service.

In line with the recommendations, obstetrician Dr Raj Gyaneshwar has

been appointed acting director of SWSAHS Maternal and Perinatal Service.

He will provide clinical leadership to implement the review's recommendations.

Nursing unit manager of Fairfield Hospital's Delivery Suite, Karen Sorensen, is the new acting director of Midwifery of the area health service.

Professor Henderson-Smart said new roles would develop and implement strategies to improve the integration, consistency and quality of maternal and perinatal services.

### **Other major recommendations of the review team include:**

- 4 more high-level (level 5) neonatal cots totalling 12 at Liverpool Hospital – an extra 3 ventilated cots and one non-ventilator cot
- 4 to 6 more beds at Liverpool Hospital to cater for women with more complicated pregnancies
- 2 to 4 extra maternity beds at Bankstown Hospital, and
- investigate a greater range of models of maternity care across the Area, such as midwifery-led teams and birth centres.



**BUNDLE OF JOY:** NSW Health Minister Morris Iemma (centre) with Jenny and Steve Hodson, parents of toddler Tara and baby Tyler who was transferred from Campbelltown Hospital to Liverpool Hospital because of respiratory problems. Both parents were full of praise for both hospitals.

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## From Deb's Desk



We are entering a very exciting phase as our area-wide clinical strategy is finalised.

Our five-year plan is a blueprint that will ensure the people of Sydney's southwest have appropriate access to quality health services. It fosters a culture that promotes high quality clinical care through safety and compliance, clinical review, best practice and clinical risk management.

Our strategy will see an increase in service delivery, research and importantly expert staff delivering high quality healthcare across what will now be known as the South Western Sydney Area Health network.

Networking service delivery across our hospitals and facilities will see a common clinical approach, a minimum standard of care, cross-appointments and good system of communications throughout SWSAHS.

The implementation of our area-wide clinical service plan is a key priority of the expert review team headed by Professor Bruce Barraclough that looked at systems of patient care in Macarthur Health Service.

Its development was steered by a clinical strategy group comprising 16 of our prominent clinicians and led by Professor Jeremy Wilson, Associate Dean, South Western Clinical School, University of NSW and chair of the SWSAHS Clinical Council.

By now, most of you would have had the opportunity to attend one of Prof Wilson's presentations as part of our staff and community consultation program.

The process of consultation with staff and the community is still and will continue to be ongoing. It is important to remember that this strategy is a living document as we work to meet the emerging healthcare needs of our rapidly growing and ageing community.

Prof Wilson's team of clinical leaders have done an extraordinary job of consulting and compiling the plan. I congratulate and thank them and the 61 departments for a

tremendous effort that has realised an exceptional result.

In the past seven months I have made significant changes at both clinical and management levels. The majority of Barraclough recommendations highlighted in the December edition of *Healthtalk* are in place. And in this edition you can read the latest to be implemented.

One of the most exciting initiatives in SWSAHS is a first for NSW Health. The Acute Care Response Unit (ACRU), an area-coordinated, stand-alone unit, is being set up to support all SWSAHS hospitals, with a single phone call to be used where a clinician has concerns about a seriously ill or at-risk patient.

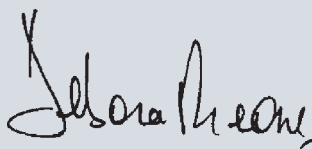
Rather than burdening individual clinicians with the responsibility of getting timely access to experts in intensive care, the ACRU will provide interim advice on immediate patient management.

If needed, the ACRU, which is to operate 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, will take on the responsibility for the rapid response and transfer of those seriously ill or at-risk patients to the most appropriate hospital to ensure their continuing care and safety.

On the management front I would like to congratulate Dr Theresa Anderson on her appointment as general manager of Liverpool Hospital; Andrew Bernard on his new role as the executive director of Bankstown and Fairfield hospitals; and Michael Woodhouse who has been promoted to general manager at Fairfield Hospital.

We are all working very hard to take the organisation forward and I believe we are now restoring community confidence and seeing staff morale rebuild.

I look forward to working with you as we implement our exciting clinical service plan.



**Associate Professor Debora Picone,  
Administrator, SWSAHS.**



Andrew Bernard



Michael Woodhouse



Teresa Anderson

## New hospital heads start work

Three new senior staff appointments - general managers for Fairfield Hospital and Liverpool Hospital and an executive director for both Bankstown and Fairfield hospitals - have added a high level of professional expertise to SWSAHS.

Announcing the appointments, a/professor Debora Picone said each position was a key role requiring immense skill and commitment. "With the wealth of experience these people have brought to the Area, I'm confident we'll see huge advancements in these critical areas of our operations."

Andrew Bernard, the new executive director for Bankstown and Fairfield hospitals is already well known to staff and the local community as he has been general manager of Bankstown Hospital and community health services for the past four years and as general manager of Fairfield Hospital and community health services before that from 1996 to 2000.

He has a Master of Public Health degree and 28 years experience in health, including 14 years as a public health microbiologist with the NSW Government Analyst.

Michael Woodhouse, who was formerly acting deputy general manager of Campbelltown and Camden hospitals, takes up the position of general manager, Fairfield Hospital.

He joined SWSAHS in 2002 as the director of Population Health at Macarthur Health Service.

His previous experience in health includes roles in Aboriginal health policy with the Commonwealth health department, senior policy advisor to the Race Discrimination Commissioner, and director of Community Health with the AIDS Council of NSW.

He qualified in economics and has an honours degree in law from the University of Adelaide.

Dr Teresa Anderson takes up her new role as general manager of Liverpool Hospital after acting in the position for the past 15 months.

She has worked at Liverpool Hospital and several affiliated community services for the past 23 years in a variety of key clinical and management positions.

Dr Anderson has an extensive clinical background in speech pathology and was made a Fellow of Speech Pathology Australia in 1992 in recognition of her clinical expertise and contribution to the advancement of the profession.

She obtained a PhD in 1994 and has lectured nationally and internationally. ■



## Show of support

NSW Premier Bob Carr dropped in to Campbelltown and Camden hospitals in January with NSW Health Minister Morris Iemma to visit patients and talk to staff about changes at the facilities.

At Campbelltown Hospital ICU he spoke to Matthew Laird (left) RN Raymond Eckhardt and NUM Catherine O'Connor.

The Premier said he was committed to helping the health service move forward and ensuring that the recommendations from the Barraclough Review were implemented. ■

## Clinical service plan gets seal of approval

The process of consultation is and will continue to be ongoing. It is important to remember that this strategy is a living document as we work to meet the emerging healthcare needs of our rapidly growing and ageing community...

Our area-wide clinical services plan has been approved in principle by the NSW Minister for Health Morris Iemma and NSW Health director general Robyn Kruk.

The minister and the director-general were impressed with the quality and innovation of the strategy and have acknowledged the hundreds of staff throughout SWSAHS who contributed.

Although the final decision is yet to be made on role delineations, the department and ministerial nods of approval are significant steps towards implementation in the coming months.

Central to the strategy is the seamless access from multiple entry points so patients will access the right place for care no matter where they enter the SWSAHS system.

### **The aim of the five-year plan is to:**

- create area-wide services, that is one service with multi-campus delivery led by an area director
- define roles/centres of expertise for each hospital that are complementary
- cross appoint staff (as many already are), to ensure quality and consistency in patient care
- introduce training rotation of registrars
- build stronger hospital to primary care connections
- boost training and quality of staff
- develop an area-wide admissions policy
- establish SWSAHS as a teaching area, not a series of disconnected teaching sites
- establish systems for monitoring the safety and outcomes of care

- develop common protocols of patient management; and
- respond to the increasing specialisation of medicine by supporting general medicine through academic appointments.

Beyond 2006/07 the population growth in SWSAHS will increase significantly with the Bringelly release requiring further planning and capital works to expand services.

The impact will be greatest on Liverpool and Campbelltown/Camden hospitals, and this means that in the next five years Liverpool must be able to expand its tertiary referral role.

The clinical strategy group also considered how hospital roles between Bankstown, Liverpool and Fairfield could grow and adjust to assist each other.

It is recommended that clinical leadership should be improved with appointments of academic chairs in the specialties of Emergency Medicine, Maternal and Fetal, Paediatrics, Cancer, Aged Care, General Medicine, Anaesthetics, Rheumatology, Trauma and Emergency, Surgery and ENT.

It is also proposed that the clinical academic leadership in nursing and allied health be enhanced.

The establishment of a South Western Sydney Research Institute will progress the development of health and medical research.

The development of an area-wide clinical strategy was a key priority of the expert review team headed by Professor Bruce Barraclough that looked at systems of patient care in Macarthur Health Service.



Prof Barraclough recommended that clinical services be provided on an area-wide basis, rather than the existing sector basis.

The structure of the plan has been steered by a clinical strategy group comprising 16 of our prominent clinicians and led by Professor Jeremy Wilson, clinical associate dean, South Western Clinical School, University of NSW and chair of the SWSAHS Clinical Council.

Prof Wilson has been conducting staff and community forums in the past two months as part of an extensive consultation process.

The process of consultation is and will continue to be ongoing. It is important to remember that this strategy is a living document as we work to meet the emerging healthcare needs of our rapidly growing and ageing community.

The overall goal is to achieve safe and efficient patient services across SWSAHS.

A total of 61 departments throughout SWSAHS facilities made submissions to the clinical strategy group.

***The group considered the following drivers in forming their recommendations:***

- patient safety
- equity of access
- cohesion between hospitals
- population growth and hospital capacity; and
- workforce recruitment, retention and culture

***The support areas identified as essential for clinical service changes include:***

- patient and family/carer transport
- communication
- appropriate cross accreditation and appointments
- clinical governance
- revenue
- education and training
- research
- clinical information management; and
- seamless acute patient transfer

“Education programs will ensure all staff are supported to acquire and maintain the level of skills required to provide appropriate services...”

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The recommendations were the result of an eight-week intensive investigation of maternal and perinatal services in Sydney's southwest encompassing Liverpool, Bankstown, Fairfield, Campbelltown, Camden and Bowral hospitals.

The expert panel wants to see Liverpool Hospital, a teaching hospital of the University of NSW, at the hub of the network providing the core critical and acute maternity and neonatal care for the southwest.

Campbelltown and Bankstown hospitals would continue to provide services for medium-risk mothers and babies.

Camden and Bowral hospitals would remain as centres for normal risk births

along with Fairfield Hospital which would refer high risk births to Liverpool Hospital.

Prof Henderson-Smart said it was crucial to the success of the network that patients and the community participate in its development.

He said the network would develop and implement Area-wide standardised criteria and protocols to ensure services are provided at an appropriate level of care, and in accordance with approved role delineations, to meet the diverse needs of women and babies.

“Education programs will ensure all staff are supported to acquire and maintain the level of skills required to provide appropriate services, including the resuscitation of neonatal infants and responding to obstetric emergencies,” Prof Henderson-Smart said.

## New positions recommended by the review:



**NEW APPOINTMENTS:** NSW Health Minister Morris Iemma (left) with Karen Sorensen, new acting director of Midwifery and Dr Rajat Gyaneshwar, acting director SWSAHS Maternal & Perinatal Service.

- area-wide director Maternal and Perinatal Service who would be a full time professor of Obstetrics based at Liverpool Hospital (Dr Rajat Gyaneshwar appointed acting director)
- area-wide director of Midwifery (Nursing unit manager, Fairfield Hospital's Delivery Suite, Karen Sorensen appointed acting director)
- area-wide clinical nurse consultant of Midwifery
- three more specialists to Liverpool Hospital's Maternal-Fetal Medicine Unit
- a medical academic specialising in obstetric anaesthesia for the new Area service
- a staff specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology as the director of Maternal and Perinatal Services at Fairfield Hospital, and
- additional midwifery, specialist nursing and allied health staff. ■



“The majority of new equipment will be introduced at Campbelltown Hospital including a significant upgrading of intensive care beds...”

## Funding boost for Campbelltown Hospital

SWSAHS has received an extra \$7.1 million from the State government for upgrading specific equipment and services to provide better patient care.

Minister for Health Morris Iemma, who announced the funding with Premier Bob Carr in January, said the additional funding followed discussions with senior medical staff and area management.

“The majority of new equipment will be introduced at Campbelltown Hospital including a significant upgrading of intensive care beds to limit the need to

transfer seriously ill patients to other hospitals,” he said.

A new echo cardiograph service will allow doctors to perform complex diagnostic tests on the hearts of patients for the first time, again reducing the need for transfer to nearby hospitals.

“Three extra defibrillators will be distributed throughout the hospital to revive patients in emergency situations and ultrasound services will be expanded to allow patients to be diagnosed faster,” he said. ■

### Other projects to receive additional funding:

#### Campbelltown Hospital

- networking of medical imaging to allow a patient's scan to be read by doctors at both Campbelltown and Liverpool hospitals simultaneously;
- upgrading of anaesthetic, surgical and sterilising equipment in operating theatres;
- expansion of ultrasound services;
- additional capacity for medical staff treating cancer patients;

- upgrading intensive and coronary care equipment and improving links with Liverpool Hospital's ICU;
- telemetry monitoring equipment allowing patients to move around the hospital while still being monitored by nurses.

#### Liverpool Hospital

- replacement of the Cardiac Catheter Laboratory

#### Camden Hospital

- new operating theatre camera system

## Emergency services improved

The decision made last year to take patients using emergency ambulance services in the Camden area to Campbelltown or Liverpool hospitals has greatly enhanced patient care, according to the Head of Medicine at Campbelltown and Camden hospitals, associate professor Brad Frankum,

“Patients requiring an emergency ambulance typically need access to a wider range of more intensive services such as emergency surgery, intensive care, emergency orthopaedics, specialist medical and paediatric services, which are all available at Campbelltown and Liverpool hospitals,” he said.

Nearly half the patients who were previously admitted to Camden Emergency Department needed to be transferred to other hospitals in order to receive essential specialist medical care, he said.

The Emergency Department at Camden hospital is still open to walk-in patients or patients who self-present.

The change in arrangements, made after consultation with clinical staff across SWSAHS and NSW Ambulance and the community, follows a recommendation by the October 2003 Barraclough Report into the Macarthur Health Service. ■

Some patients have been on dialysis for up to eight years waiting for donor organs....

## New Dialysis Unit lightens load for patients

Patients needing kidney dialysis living in the Campbelltown district have welcomed the opening of a new six bed unit at Campbelltown Hospital.

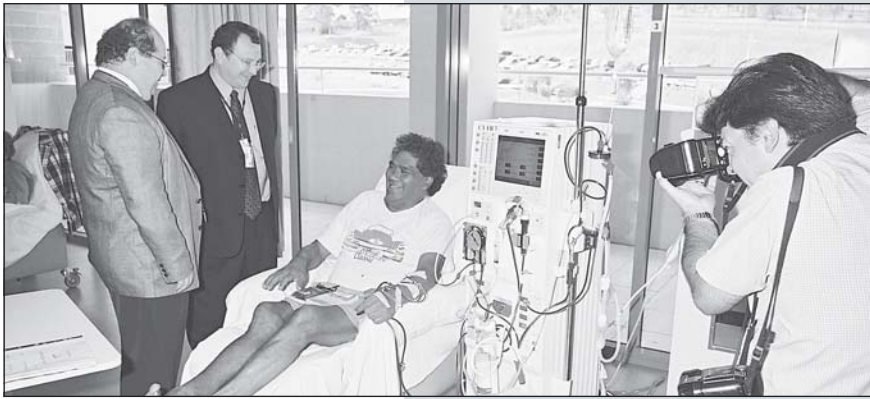
The new facility means patients requiring care can be treated locally, instead of travelling to locations outside the area.

Yvonne Ayrey, acting senior nurse manager, Renal Unit, Liverpool Hospital said staff were very excited about the opening. "Its a brand new unit with the latest modern equipment. Patients receive the highest quality therapy and no longer have to go through the discomfort and inconvenience of having to travel long distances for their treatment," she said.

Some patients have been on dialysis for up to eight years waiting for donor organs, said Ms Ayrey.

"Patients need to be on a machine for six hours, three times a week, so the convenience of this new unit is going to make a huge, positive difference to their lives, and to their families and support networks."

The establishment of the new Unit was one of the recommendations of the recent Barraclough report into healthcare in the Macarthur Health Service. ■



**IN THE PICTURE:** Photographer from Macarthur Advertiser (right) photographs Miller Wikaura, from Minto, at the opening of the new Dialysis Unit at Campbelltown Hospital. Standing: Dr Michael Suranyi, Director, Dialysis Unit, Liverpool Hospital (left) and Dr Andrew Jeffries, Consultant Nephrologist, Campbelltown & Liverpool Hospitals.

## Play your cards right



**WINNING HAND:** Left to right: professor Jeanette Ward, director, Population Health, SWSAHS, Linda Burney, MP, who launched the project, Brendon Kelaher, manager, Aboriginal Health, SWSAHS, Helen Orcher, Aboriginal sexual health education officer, SWSAHS and Heather Gray, CEO, Wentworth Area Health Service.

Sexual health workers across the Greater West have found a new way to talk to young Aboriginal people about sex and drugs.

Play Your Cards Right, is an initiative of South Western Sydney Area Health Service, Western Sydney and Wentworth area health service, and Daruk Aboriginal Medical Service.

It uses a deck of standard playing cards as a means of conveying vital health information about HIV, hepatitis C, drug use and sexual health.

Manager, HIV, Hepatitis & Sexual Health, South Western Sydney Area Health Service, Vikki Sinnott said the cards were designed

by a graphic design company specialising in communicating social issues to young people.

"Each card has a specific message about sex and drug health and education presented in a colourful and simple way.

"They were developed after discussions with various people working in the field, including young people who contributed ideas about the designs and messages."

The aim of the cards is to get people talking, said Ms Sinnott.

"This can be through young people playing them individually or in groups, sexual health workers playing with young people or families playing in their homes." ■

## Five top hospital appointments

Staff reaction has been very positive.

“We can see good things are happening and we’re moving forward...”

Staff morale and training levels took a significant step forward last month with the appointment of five highly qualified clinical nurse consultants, all with a wide range of experience in key areas of nursing and teaching.

Four are working at Campbelltown Hospital and one at Camden Hospital.

Campbelltown Hospital acting director of nursing & acute services, Jenny Becker said clinical nurse consultants were nurses who have reached the top of their profession.

“They provide an extra level of leadership and support and are readily accessible to nurses if an emergency or special need arises.”

Ron Wilson, who works in Emergency at Campbelltown Hospital, comes with valuable experience as a senior nurse specialist in the Emergency Department of a large West London hospital which treated around 90,000 patients a year. Prior to that he worked for seven years in Illawarra Area Health Service and before that Liverpool and Bankstown Hospitals.

Rebecca Cade, in the Surgery unit at Campbelltown Hospital trained and worked at St George Hospital, Kogarah, where she was also a member of the hospital’s Quality Unit, set up to improve patient care and outcomes specifically in the area of surgery and critical care.

She is responsible for the case management of complex patients in surgical wards and gives on-the-spot training and tutorials on pain management, wound care, surgical drains, getting patients ready for theatre and the special care needed when patients return from surgery.

David Sanchez, who works in Emergency and Surgical Nursing at Camden Hospital, already had extensive experience working as a clinical nurse consultant at Liverpool Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit and Concord Hospital in Critical Care, which incorporates Emergency, Intensive Care, Coronary Care and High Dependency Care.

Jenny Selfe, in Intensive Care Nursing, Campbelltown Hospital, has 20 years experience, having worked in Critical Care at Fairfield and Prince Henry hospitals.

“I was attracted to the job because I felt very deeply for the staff who I knew were doing their very best and I wanted to help by providing support, as well as an added level of clinical training,” she said.

Kerrie O’Leary, in Medical Nursing, Campbelltown Hospital, has widespread community nursing experience with a strong background in medical nursing. She has worked in Cardiology in Liverpool and Fairfield hospitals and was the lead researcher in a study which looked at meeting cardiac patients needs once they left hospital. She is currently running education, mentoring and self development programs for nurses.

Staff reaction to the new appointments has been very positive. Campbelltown Hospital Surgery NUM, Matthew James said morale had gone up incredibly. “We can see good things are happening and we’re moving forward,” he said.

Camden Hospital Emergency & Surgical Nursing NUM, Kerry Walton, was impressed with the new recruits. “These people are experts in their own field and that knowledge will be passed on. This is a very positive step forward.”

The appointment of CNCs was one of the key recommendations in the Barraclough Review into healthcare at Macarthur Health Service which came out in late 2003. ■



ALL SMILES: Our new CNCs (left to right): Rebecca Cade, Ron Wilson, David Sanchez, Kerrie O’Leary and Jenny Selfe.

Maternity services first became fully operational at Liverpool Hospital in 1959...



## Caroline Chisholm Centre reaches milestone

Four special little people stole the show at the recent 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the opening of the Caroline Chisholm Centre, Liverpool Hospital.

They were the four 8 month old baby quadruplets, born in the Centre last year. Their mother, Amanda Baker, of Chipping Norton, was a special guest at the celebrations and in her presentation *A Client's Perspective* praised the medical and nursing staff for their unstinting care and dedication.

**THE BAKER BOYS:**  
The first quads born in the Centre since it opened 10 years ago.

Other speakers included the medical director, Division of Women's Child Health, professor Felix Wong, staff specialists, Dr Rajanishwar Gyaneshwar and Dr Alison Colley and the director of nursing & clinical services, Leanne Mills.

Maternity services first became fully operational at Liverpool Hospital in 1959 and in the first twelve months 1013 babies were delivered.

With the opening of the Caroline Chisholm Centre in 1994, Obstetric and Gynaecology services were expanded and there are now 3000 deliveries a year.

The Centre offers a Level 6 Obstetric service, Level 5 Neonatal service and Level 4 Paediatric service. The facility includes nine birthing rooms, a 30 bed postnatal ward, 11 antenatal and 11 gynaecology bed ward, along with 25 paediatric ward beds. ■

## Giving up the bottle

Bankstown Health Service has embarked on a health campaign to alert parents to health problems that can arise when babies continue to rely on bottle feeding after the age of 12 months.

Bankstown Health Service community nutritionist, Lyn Stewart, said problems included iron deficiency, tooth decay and middle ear infections.

"Children who drink cow's milk from bottles rather than cups after the age of 12 months tend to drink more milk than they need," she said.

"Excess milk can displace other essential foods in children's diets, and while cow's milk has great nutritional benefits and is an important food for children, it contains very little iron," she said.

"Overuse of bottles can also lead to tooth decay, particularly if the bottles contain

sweet drinks and middle ear infections in young children have been associated with drinking from bottles while lying down," said Ms Stewart.

The situation is complicated by the fact that iron deficiency in young children is not obvious and affected children may appear perfectly healthy.

Research in the Bankstown area found that three out of four children between one and two years old were still using feeding bottles.

The campaign, which was a joint initiative with the Centre for Family Health and Midwifery, University of Technology, Sydney, was directed at the general community as well as Vietnamese, Arabic and Chinese speaking communities who commonly have poor access to information in their own language. ■



## Bigger and better emergency department for Liverpool

The department is one of the busiest in the State, seeing an average of 140 patients a day....

Staff and visitors around Liverpool Hospital are impressed with the major construction work underway in the Emergency Department as the \$9.1 million redevelopment of the site begins to take shape.

Work began early this year and when finished in the first half of 2005, the new department will be more than double its former size.

The number of adult acute and sub-acute beds will increase from 15 to 36 including two additional resuscitation bays for treating major traumas and life-threatening conditions, making a total of six bays.

In addition, the department will feature a dedicated six-bed paediatric area and a new 10-bed Emergency Observation Unit.

The department, one of the busiest in the State, currently sees an average of 140 patients every day, while service demand is increasing by 6 per cent each year.

The final number, including treatment and procedure rooms, a plaster room and safe observation rooms will total 65 treatment spaces.

The department includes one of the country's leading major trauma centres and the new six-bed resuscitation area will allow for a more manageable Statewide trauma response for multiple casualties.

Other features will include a state-of-the-art overhead digital X-ray machine suspended from the ceiling creating more working space for staff and making the resuscitation area the most modern in the State.

Three isolation rooms will have individual ventilation to contain any risk of infection, one of which will be a resuscitation room.

The new building will allow easier access for critically ill patients to undergo early life-saving surgery in the operating theatres, directly above the department.

The rooftop helipad will have direct lift access to the Emergency Department and resuscitation rooms. ■



LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL: Artist's impression of new development.

Upgrading of the Intensive Care Unit at Campbelltown Hospital by networking it with Liverpool Hospital...

## Major changes at Campbelltown and Camden hospitals

Patient care at Campbelltown and Camden hospitals has been greatly improved with the ongoing implementation of recommendations made late last year by Professor Bruce Barraclough and his review team.

A total of 18 recommendations for major reforms to the Macarthur Health Service were made by Professor Barraclough, all of which were fully accepted.

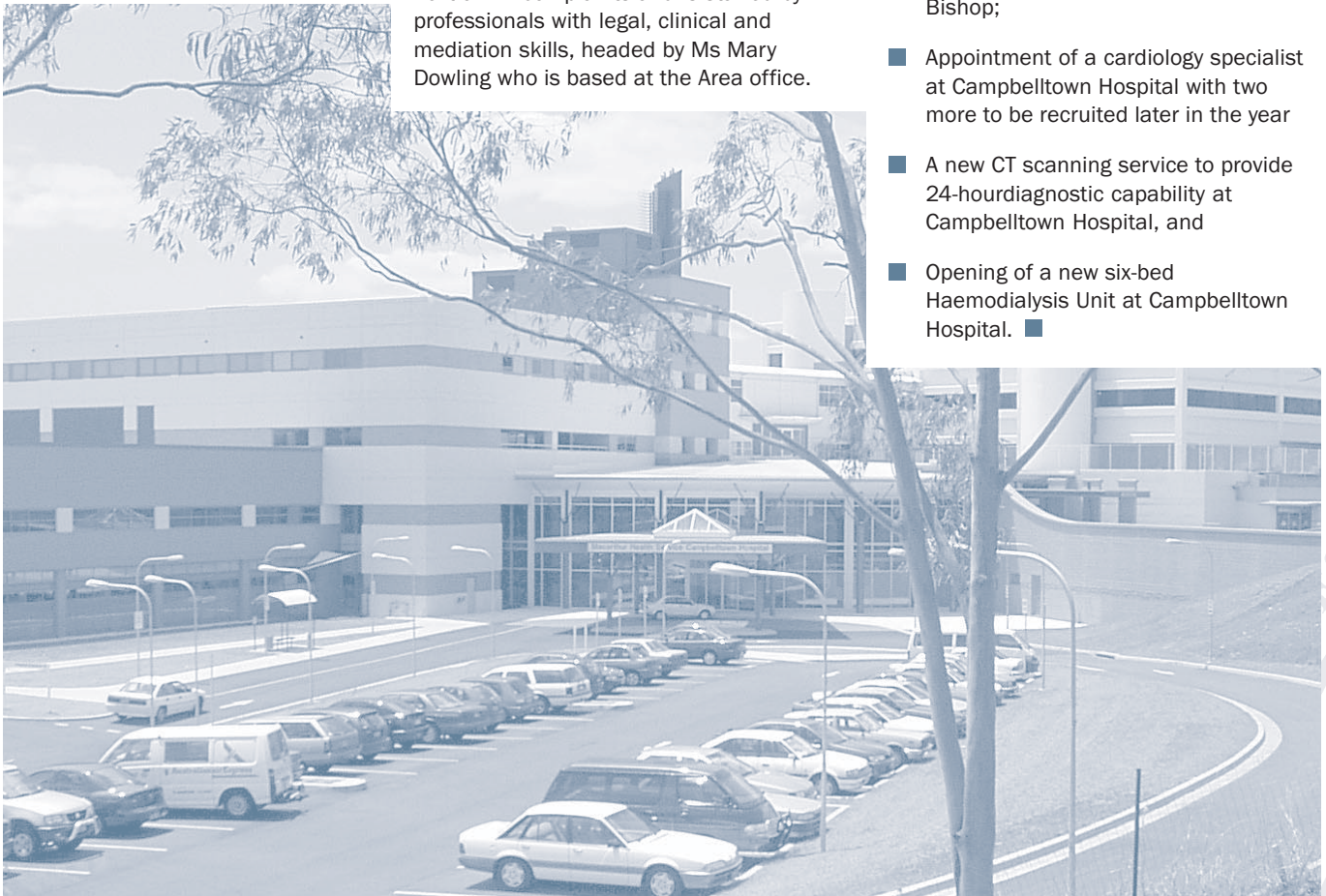
### **The changes to date include:**

Setting up a new system to deal with patient family and staff complaints, known as the Professional Practice Unit. It has already improved the way complaints and grievances of patients and staff are dealt with and resolved.

The unit provides for a more open and transparent system for patient and next-of-kin complaints and is staffed by professionals with legal, clinical and mediation skills, headed by Ms Mary Dowling who is based at the Area office.

### **Other new services and staff added to the area include:**

- An extra five medical registrars at Campbelltown Hospital, bringing the total to seven;
- Appointment of Professor Reginald Lord as part-time Director of Surgery at Campbelltown Hospital;
- Appointment of five highly skilled Clinical Nurse Consultants to work in Emergency, Intensive Care, General Medicine and Surgery (story page 6);
- Six new locum physicians in the Emergency Department, Campbelltown Hospital
- Upgrading of the Intensive Care Unit at Campbelltown Hospital by networking it with Liverpool Hospital under the direction of leading specialist Dr Gillian Bishop;
- Appointment of a cardiology specialist at Campbelltown Hospital with two more to be recruited later in the year
- A new CT scanning service to provide 24-hour diagnostic capability at Campbelltown Hospital, and
- Opening of a new six-bed Haemodialysis Unit at Campbelltown Hospital. ■



“We get fantastic personal, caring attention and because it’s close to home, we have some chance of living a normal life...”

## Brittney goes to school

Starting school is a big event for any five year old, but for Campbelltown resident, Brittney McKenna, it was monumental.

Brittney, who was diagnosed at birth with spinal muscular atrophy, spent the past six months of last year in Campbelltown Hospital. It was only by a remarkable team effort on the part of the dedicated medical and nursing staff, and her parents that she is now a happy and enthusiastic school student at St Helens Park Public School, Campbelltown.

Her father, Andrew McKenna said Brittney had a disability from birth, but last year she had further medical problems.

“We were in Brisbane where she was going to be a flower girl at a relative’s wedding, when she got very sick and had to be rushed to hospital.”

After several months, she was able to transfer to Campbelltown Hospital where she spent the rest of the year.

The unspoken hero throughout, said Mr McKenna, has been Campbelltown Hospital paediatrician, Dr Rick Dunstan, who has put more into helping Brittney and the family than anyone could believe.

“He is always available, no matter what time of the day or night and there’s no doubt his personal dedication has helped us get to the point where Brittney could make it to school.”

Brittney’s mother, Debbie, also praised Dr Dunstan and the nursing staff at Campbelltown Hospital.

“I’m so glad we’re at Campbelltown, and not one of the big metropolitan hospitals. We get fantastic personal, caring attention and because it’s close to home, we have some chance of living a normal life.” ■



**OFF TO SCHOOL:** Brittney McKenna (centre) with Campbelltown Hospital nurses Kim Daley (left) and Jeanette Power, part of the team who helped to make her well enough to go to school.

## Massaging a few cares away

Patients at the Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre, and their carers, are full of praise for a recent innovation that is reducing stress and generally lifting morale.

Every week they are treated to free massages, pedicures or hand treatments, or they can have an eyelash and brow tint if they prefer.

“I’m not aware of any other hospital in and around Sydney that offers all of this, absolutely free of charge,” said Denise Burns, nurse unit manager of the Centre.

The massage service was first introduced to nurses and others working at the Centre, who paid for half hour sessions as a way of relaxing and unwinding, said Ms Burns.

A Thirlmere masseur and beauty therapist, Carrie-Anne Warn, who runs a business locally visited the hospital a couple of times a week to carry out the treatment

She has now extended her services to patients and carers, free of charge.

“Both my grandfathers died from cancer, and I know how hard it can be not just on the patients, but also the carers,” Ms Warn said.

“This is one way I can make a contribution to a very difficult situation.”

Around 150 outpatients visit the Centre regularly for treatment.

“A lot of them now come in specially on Mondays because they enjoy being pampered a little,” Ms Burns said. ■



**HMM...THAT FEELS GOOD:** Masseur Carrie-Anne Warn gives free massage to cancer patient Mary Cunnane while nurse Gail Dwyer (left) and nurse unit manager, Cancer Therapy Unit, Denise Burns look on.

## Cancer patients treated closer to home

“Being able to receive treatment closer to home is an important factor in maintaining quality of life...”

The Minister assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), Frank Sartor, visited Campbelltown Hospital recently and spoke to patients and staff at the official launch of the Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre.

Prior to the \$13.1m centre being built, patients from Macarthur and

Wingecarribee travelled to Liverpool Hospital or the Illawarra.

Cancer Centre director, Dr Stephen Della-Fiorentina said the availability of comprehensive high quality cancer services to the communities of Macarthur, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee was a major improvement for one of the fastest growing areas of Sydney.

“Being able to receive treatment closer to home is an important factor in maintaining quality of life,” he said.

Community involvement has been strong since services began, with a community council formed in January 2004 to provide advice on the education and service needs of the community

The new Centre is actively involved in research into cancer treatment and is taking part in a number of international and local clinical trials into improvements in the treatment of breast cancer, lung cancer and prostate cancer. ■



*NEW CENTRE: Macarthur Cancer Community Council member Lyn Camp (left) with patient Adell Campbell and Minister Frank Sartor.*

## Words of wisdom

A much loved client of Macarthur Health Services, Christine Holmes, of South Camden, spread her generosity to staff even further with the recent donation to Campbelltown Hospital library of a first edition book *The Fountain of Age* by famous feminist writer, Betty Freidan.

Mrs Holmes has been a patient at both Campbelltown and Camden hospital's Emergency departments, an inpatient to various wards and a patient with the

Ambulatory Care Chronic and Complex programme.

Nurse unit manager, Camden Emergency Department, Lisa Kremmer said Mrs Holmes was an ardent supporter of the area's health services.

“She's always sending us muffins, and even boxes of ice creams, as well as letters of support and the occasional poem.”

Betty Friedan is famous for her ground breaking book *The Feminine Mystique* published in 1963, now regarded as the catalytic work of the women's movement. *The Fountain of Age*, (1993) addresses the psychology of old age, seeking to counter the notion that aging means loss and depletion. ■



**BOOK DONATION:**  
*Christine Holmes, (seated) and Acting General Manager, Campbelltown Hospital, JoAnne Fisher (left), with the first edition book *The Fountain of Age* by Betty Freidan, donated to the hospital library by Mrs Holmes. Standing: Lisa Kremmer, NUM, Emergency, Camden.*

## In brief

### Top speakers for conference

Two Canadian experts and a number of specialists working in child and adolescent mental health in SWSAHS and Karitane will present papers at a conference entitled You, Me and Attachment to be held next month.

Professor Dave Pederson and Mrs Deanne Pederson, from the University of Western Ontario, will provide an overview of relevant research and address attachment issues as they relate to staff as well as clients and families. They will also run a workshop on attachment-based interventions with high risk families.

The director of the SWSAHS Infant, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service and Chair of the Karitane Board of Directors, Professor Bryanne Barnett, will talk on prevention and early intervention to support mothers, fathers and children in developing successfully as a family.

Other speakers include Dr Stephen Matthey, research director for the SWSAHS Infant, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service, Dr Ian Harrison VMO (psychiatrist) at Karitane and SWSAHS as well as two clinical nurse consultants who will give the nursing perspective. Enquiries: 9794 1844.

### Lung cancer seminar

Patients and carers recounting their personal stories and experiences were the highlights of a free Lung Cancer Seminar held recently to assist those affected by this illness which is currently the leading cause of cancer death in NSW.

Dr Anthony Aouad, respiratory physician, South Western Sydney Cancer Service, who addressed the seminar on the medical background and causes of the disease, said that South Western Sydney had a higher incidence rate than the State average.

The South Western Sydney Cancer Service, which organised the seminar is working to set up a support system for sufferers to provide information about treatment and other developments in the field.

### The Best Time for Ages

About 400 senior citizens, who were guests of SWSAHS at a special Seniors Week lunch recently had a happy surprise when Barry Williams, the actor who played Greg Brady, in the popular 1970s long running television show The Brady Bunch dropped in to entertain them.

"Once he knew about the event, he immediately volunteered his time," said Edward Thomas, Respite Co-ordinator, Liverpool Hospital, who helped organise the day.

### Award winners

Congratulations to SWSAHS trainee enrolled nurses, Abigail Tetuanui (Fairfield Health Service) and Monica Moore (Macarthur Health Service) for their distinguished results in the theoretical component of their TAFE courses. They received awards for Consistent Effort and Achievement based on their overall performance, team spirit and class contribution.

### Antenatal clinic goes to the people

A new antenatal clinic has opened in Macquarie Fields housing estate so that pregnant women will not need to travel to Campbelltown Hospital for their regular check-ups and care.

The move comes after a recent community Antenatal Outreach Forum recognised the need to help women living in isolated circumstances because of lack of access to a car, or manageable public transport.

The midwife in charge of the clinic, Geesje McGuire said previously many women had been taking unnecessary health risks for themselves and their unborn child by only going to Campbelltown Hospital antenatal clinic once or twice, usually close to the time their baby was due.

The clinic carries out all the antenatal services available at Campbelltown Hospital including blood pressure checks, organising ultrasounds, blood tests and providing information and advice on breastfeeding and postnatal care. ■

### South Western Sydney Area Health Service CONGRATULATES

staff at Camden & Campbelltown hospitals  
and community health services



Ambulatory Care and Maternal & Child Health are

**WINNERS OF 10 In The Rotary Club of Macarthur Sunrise  
7th Annual Pride of Workmanship Awards**

**OVERALL WINNER: Pride in Workmanship Award**  
Jayne Mitchell, Allied Health, Campbelltown Hospital

**WINNER: Clerical**  
Jayne Mitchell, Allied Health, Campbelltown Hospital

**WINNER: Education & Training**  
Anne McKenzie, Maternal & Child Health, Narellan Community Health Centre

**RUNNER UP: Health**  
Dianne Kelly, Speech Pathology, Campbelltown Hospital

**COMMENDATIONS: Macarthur Ambulatory Care**  
Bradley Warner & Karen Bennett, Campbelltown Hospital  
Anne Berthon, Laurel Burr, Caroline James, Barbara Maehler & Denise Wiezerbicki, Rosemeadow Community Health Centre

Thank you to staff at Macarthur Health Service for their award-winning dedication and commitment to the workplace.



## Mailbag

Fairfield Hospital

Dear Sir,

So much bad publicity has appeared in the media recently. I felt I must write to say I found just the opposite during my stay in Fairfield Hospital.

I recently underwent a hip replacement in November of this year and I cannot praise the staff enough for their care and attention.

My special thanks go to my surgeon Dr J. Dave and his team who attended in theatre, to the nursing staff in surgical ward 2B and to Simon, Justine and Sue in physiotherapy for their patience and kindness. Not forgetting the staff in preadmission and reception who made me feel like a person and not a statistic.

Yours very sincerely,

**D.C.**

Liverpool District Hospital

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was a patient at your hospital late last year when I underwent surgery.

I would just like to put on record the fact that I received the highest quality professional treatment from all staff, which commenced from admission to discharge. I was a public patient.

All too often one hears criticism of the public hospital system, but it seems that no one bothers to comment on the excellent treatment they receive. I believe in giving credit where it is due and all credit is due to you and your staff.

**J.N.**

15 February 2004

To Camden Hospital Emergency Department,

Mr B.W. & family would like to express their complete appreciation to the entire team in the emergency section at Camden Hospital.

Your professionalism, complete dedication, caring and understanding work practices have definitely not gone unnoticed.

What would we have done without you?

Thanks so very much.

**Mr BW and family**

## Healthtalk Contributions:

To contribute stories or photos to "Healthtalk" please send an email to Area Public Affairs - Email: [clair.cameron@swhsahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:clair.cameron@swhsahs.nsw.gov.au)  
Phone: 9828 6848 Fax: 9828 5704

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