



ST VINCENT'S CAMPUS
ALUMNI

*Charity,
Care
& Compassion*

Newsletter

August 2014

Welcome

As we celebrate the 175th anniversary since the Sisters of Charity arrived in Australia, it should perhaps come as no surprise that this milestone has coincided with a monumental period of achievement over the past twelve months across the St Vincent's Campus. For those five Sisters who commenced our mission here in 1838, their legacy of being extremely industrious and forward-thinking continues to thrive on the Campus today.

In September last year, the St Vincent's Health Australia Board announced significant structural changes to shift our organisation from a regional structure towards a service-line structure with three divisions – public hospitals, private hospitals and aged care. After careful consideration, they felt that this is the right model to advance our mission and support the growth of our health service working together as one national group under one identity. So far this change is already yielding benefits and under the leadership of newly appointed Group CEO Toby Hall, SVHA has experienced improving operational effectiveness for patient centred care and the fostering of greater collaboration across our facilities.

This year marks 30 years since the late Dr Victor Chang launched the St Vincent's National Heart Transplant Program and performed life-saving surgery on Australia's youngest heart transplant recipient, Ms Fiona Coote.

Today, Fiona is the longest surviving transplant recipient in the Southern Hemisphere, and the

expanded Heart Lung Transplant Unit has performed more than 870 heart, 763 lung and 84 combined heart-lung transplants with survival rates that surpass international benchmarks.

To mark this significant milestone, A/Professor Philip Spratt, Director of the Heart Lung Transplant Unit and original member of Fiona's transplant team, was recently reunited with Fiona along with the other members of the Transplant Unit at a media conference to mark the 30 year milestone.

At the event, Health Minister Jillian Skinner acknowledged some of the remarkable achievements and Australian firsts at St Vincent's Hospital including: the first bilateral lung transplant, the first heart/lung transplant, the first single lung transplant, the first implantation of mechanical assist devices and the first implant of a total artificial heart.

"The pioneering efforts of Dr Victor Chang - which have been continued by the Unit's multi-disciplinary approach to patient care - have ensured that St Vincent's Hospital is recognised internationally as a leader in heart/lung transplantation", she said. This year also marks another important 30 year anniversary for the Campus, it was 1984 when St Vincent's opened the country's first dedicated HIV ward. This milestone coincided with some important research in which St Vincent's researchers found a remarkable new direction in HIV research, and new hope for HIV positive people with leukaemia and lymphoma. ►

Two HIV positive St Vincent's patients appear to have cleared the virus, registering undetectable levels after bone marrow transplants. The patients, have had undetectable levels of HIV for more than three years after post transplantation - the first such cases reported internationally.

This research continues the extraordinary story that in 30 years, has seen St Vincent's transform from a hospital courageously responding to a newly discovered and deadly epidemic, to a health service at the forefront of the international pursuit of effectively treating HIV.

At the heart of all our endeavours across the St Vincent's Campus is the provision of exceptional care. Our commitment to quality and safety is without peer. Key independent clinical excellence indicators relating to overall national and peer group comparison benchmarks have seen both Hospitals achieve outstanding results.

For St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney a raft of recent independent patient surveys have seen the hospital out-perform peer Australian hospitals, peer American Hospitals, and even peer Magnet designated hospitals internationally.

The Magnet Recognition Program is operated by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and is internationally considered the highest recognition for nursing and healthcare excellence.

In particular St Vincent's Private has outperformed most hospitals within the Equip National ACHS Accreditation program. The focus is on assessing a hospital's capacity to provide patient centered care by gauging both patient satisfaction and experience, with scores in the 96-99 percentiles and a peerless net promoter score of 81.2% the Hospital can take pride in knowing that 105 years on, we are indeed still fulfilling our mission.

In a similar affirmation of the Campus' commitment to patient-centered care, St Vincent's Hospital and the St Vincent's Clinic Diagnostic Endoscopy Centre were recently named in the top ten of the 2013 HCF Patient Survey. As Australia's largest not-for-profit health fund HCF annually surveys the hospital experiences of more than 11,000 of its members from across Australia. St Vincent's Hospital was the only public hospital listed.

While the endeavours we have highlighted here are diverse, they share a unique commonality in that they all embody our Mission. Be it novel methods

in treating HIV, exciting capital works projects or outstanding patient survey results – across the St Vincent's Campus; on any given day - we are responding to community need in both an innovative and effective way. And in this; the 175th year of the arrival of the Sisters, we are very grateful for the beacon of light that is their Mission.

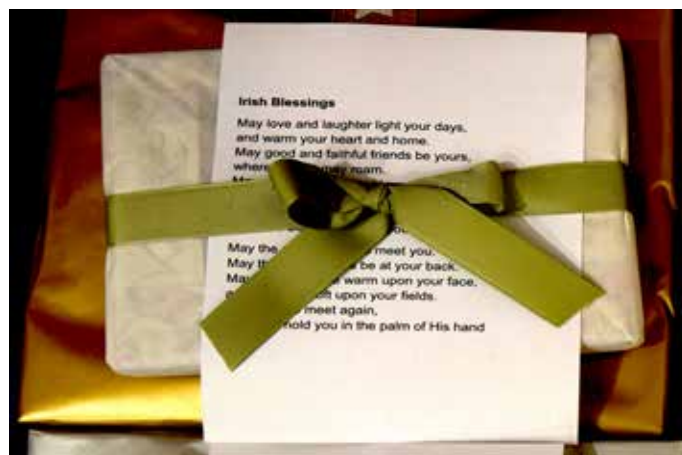
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Save the Date

17 September 2014 - Sandra David Oration

29 May 2015 - St Vincent's Alumni Dinner 2015



Sisters of Charity celebrate 175 years in Australia

The Sisters of Charity celebrated 175 years in Australia with a liturgy and afternoon tea at St Vincent's Campus on 22 July 2014 – The feast day of Mother Mary Aikenhead.

Sister Clare Nolan RSC gave a moving description of what the anniversary means to her and the sisters in general.

LaVerne Bellea from the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern praised the long association between the sisters and the service and A/Prof Tony Grabs and Joan Bourke gave personal insights into working with the Sisters and the influence that they continue to have over our hospitals.

The liturgy involved a moving rendition of "Standing on the Shoulders" – the song chosen by the Sisters for the year of celebration.

An artwork depicting the first five sisters to arrive in Australia by Queensland artist Hazel Cope was included in the liturgy. The painting was commissioned by Sister Christine Henry RSC in 2014 in recognition of the 175th anniversary.

The liturgy concluded with the staff offering an Irish blessing to the Sisters and the Sisters returning an Irish blessing to the staff.

Sr Genevieve Walsh RSC thanked those in attendance:

"I sincerely thank you for the celebration of the Mother Mary Aikenhead Feast Day liturgy. I was really moved, proud and grateful that we have never been alone. We have always been in partnership with great people like you."

The Sisters in attendance at the liturgy were: Sr Clare Nolan RSC, Sr Genevieve Walsh RSC, Sr Jacinta Fong RSC, Sr Jan O'Grady RSC, Sr Jennifer Fahey RSC, Sr Margaret Beirne RSC, Sr Marie Stanley RSC, Sr Mary Frances Gould RSC, Sr Maureen Heffernan RSC, Sr Pauline Nicholson RSC, Sr Robyn Wheeler RSC



A/Prof Anthony Schembri, Sr Jan O'Grady RSC, Sr Margaret Beirne RSC & Sr Genevieve Walsh RSC celebrating 175 years of the Sisters of Charity in Australia on 22 July



Sr Pauline Nicholson RSC, Julie Taylor and Sr Maureen Heffernan at the Mary Aikenhead Day 175th Anniversary Liturgy

Introducing Anthony Schembri Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

Associate Professor Anthony Schembri is now Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney.

Anthony has a wide scope of clinical, administrative and academic experience, and comes to St Vincent's from Liverpool Hospital where he has been General Manager since 2010. During his time at Liverpool Hospital, Anthony was responsible for operational management and governance of the 875 bed principle referral, acute care teaching hospital. His experience at Liverpool included commissioning of the \$390M Hospital redevelopment and strong financial performance.

From 2007 – 2010, Anthony was General Manager, Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital and General Manager, Fairfield Hospital, Sydney South West Area Health Service.

Anthony has a Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) from the University of NSW, a Certificate in Health and Human Rights from Harvard University, an Advanced Clinical Training Certificate from the US National Centre for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, CA, a Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and a Masters in Public Policy (Merit) from the University of Sydney, and is currently undertaking a Doctorate in Business Administration with the University of Tasmania.

Anthony holds several Government, Academic and Professional memberships and appointments; he is a registered Social Worker with the Australian Association of Social Workers, a Fellow of the Australasian College of Health Service Managers, an Accredited Therapist with the NSW Victims of Crime Bureau and a Surveyor with the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards. Anthony currently sits on the Liverpool City Council's Economic Development Committee, is a member of the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission's State Hand Hygiene Advisory Committee and Expert Advisory Committee on Prevention of Hospital Acquired Infections, and has previously been a Board Director at the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research.

Anthony is currently involved in a number of research projects and has written book reviews and articles for professional association publications and provided guest editorials and reviews to the *Journal of Australian Social Work*. He has presented at international, national and state conventions on social work in health and trauma related issues.



A/Prof Anthony Schembri - Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent's Health Network

Introducing Toby Hall - Group CEO St Vincent's Health Australia

Toby Hall commenced as Group Chief Executive Officer of St Vincent's Health Australia in April 2014. Prior to this, Toby was CEO of Mission Australia – Australia's largest national community welfare services organisation – for almost eight years. Toby has worked extensively as a senior executive in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. His commitment to the poor and vulnerable, both in Australia and internationally, have lead him to leadership roles at World Vision and governance roles with two regional hospitals and health care services provider, Sterihealth. During Toby's leadership, Mission Australia established its Early Learning Services as well as Mission Australia Housing, and acquired ABC Childcare (now Goodstart Early Learning).

In the April 2014 edition of St Vincent's Health Australia News, Toby said:

"It is a privilege to be able to take on the leadership of St Vincent's Health Australia, a group that has over 175 years history of operating in Australia"

He spoke of the diversity of the role played by St Vincent's Health and the diversity of the people working to achieve the goals first set by Mary Aikenhead.

"This vast work is still our Mission today, brought together under the banner of bringing God's love to those in need through the healing ministry of Jesus."

He emphasised the importance of one of St Vincent's Health's key values: Compassion, stating:
"This is something I have seen across the diversity of the organisation in our health services, our aged care services, in prisons and in the street programs where our people support the homeless. This value of compassion brings us together in our diversity."



Toby Hall, CEO, St Vincent's Health Australia

Lord, you taught us to love one another as you have loved us.

Mary Aikenhead, inspired by this message, gathered around her a group of women and friends dedicated to the service of the poor and marginalised. May we continue to be inspired by her example as we bring Christ's love and peace to all we work with and minister to in St Vincent's Health Australia Sydney.

Amen

Queen's Birthday Honours List

Two members of the St Vincent's community were honoured in the Queen's Birthday honours list on 9 June. Dr Francis Cheok and Jose Aguilera have given years of service to the St Vincent's community and beyond and we thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Dr Francis (Frank) Cheok

Dr Cheok was awarded the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for Services to medicine, particularly ophthalmology, to professional organisations and to the community.

Dr Cheok was Consulting Ophthalmologist at St Vincent's Private Hospital from 1972 until 2006. He was a pioneer of phacoemulsification cataract surgery and assisted with the introduction of encapsular extra-cataract surgery.

He has been a Foundation Member of the Ophthalmological Society of Australia since 1969 and is Chairman of the Older Fellow Committee, Royal Australasian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists where he is also a Council Member and previously served on the Public Relations Committee and Congress Organising Committee.



Dr Francis (Frank) Cheok OAM

Dr Cheok is a member of several professional organisations, including the Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia, Australian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness, Medical Guild of St Luke, Australian Sports Medicine Federation and the College of Occupational Medicine.

He is a Fellow of The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Royal College of Surgeons England, Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, Royal College of Ophthalmologists, Royal Australasian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists and the Royal Society of Medicine.

Dr Cheok has spent many years volunteering as an Ophthalmology Surgeon at the Hazarabag Jesuit Mission in India and volunteered his time playing the harmonica at retirement villages and nursing homes.

Jose Aguilera

Jose Aguilera is Director of Nursing and Clinical Services at St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney, was awarded a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division For service to nursing and to professional organisations.

Jose has been the Director of Nursing and Clinical Services at St Vincent's Private Hospital since 2004. Prior to this he was the Deputy Directors of Nursing at St Vincent's Private Hospital for ten years. ►



Mr Jose Aguilera OAM

Jose is also a member of the Steering Committee, St Vincents and Mater Health Sydney and Australian Catholic University Nursing Research Institute and an Adjunct Associate Professor of the University of Tasmania. Prior to this he was Adjunct Professor and Associate Clinical Professor at the Australian Catholic University from 2006 to 2008.

He is an CAN Representative on the Private Health Facilities Advisory Committee at the New South Wales Ministry of Health and a member of a number of professional organisations, including: the New South Wales College of Nursing, New South Wales Nurses and Midwives Association, Institute of Healthcare Executives NSW and ACT and the Australian Private Hospitals Association.

Jose is a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing and an Associate Fellow of the Australasian College of Health Services Management.

St Vincent's Clinic 25th Anniversary 2015

St Vincent's Clinic will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2015 and a range of activities have been planned to mark the occasion. Official ceremonies will be held and a book and art works have been commissioned to commemorate the anniversary.

Further information and dates will be included in upcoming editions of the St Vincent's Alumni Newsletter.

Congratulations to Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AC CVO



Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AC CVO, was the guest of honour at the 2014 St Vincent's Alumni Dinner on 30 May 2014

Since the Alumni Dinner on 30 May 2014, at which she was the special guest of honour, Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD, CVO, has met with the Queen to be invested as a Dame of the Order of Australia. St Vincent's Alumni President, Dr Anthony Williams, sent the following letter of congratulations.

Your Excellency,

Having only recently had the pleasure of your company at our annual Alumni Dinner, I now find myself having a most pleasurable task to perform.

On behalf of each and every one in our Alumni (Now your Alumni as well) may we offer our congratulations on your receipt of the award "Dame of the Order of Australia AD"

You by your nature have never sought accolades but there are certain people in our society who by their example are rightly recognised, in your case by the award of our nation's top honour.

We are extremely proud to be able to witness your recognition and wish you every happiness and good health in your retirement.

St Vincent's Private Hospital Redevelopment Update

Significant clinical and capital master planning has been undertaken to address the short and long term needs of St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney (SVPHS) and the St Vincent's Health Australia Board has approved a very significant \$115 million redevelopment plan for the Hospital.

The plan will see the establishment of a \$75 million new East Wing for St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney as well as \$40 million funding for a major renovation of the existing main building. Combined, this redevelopment will see SVPH provide a 20% increase in capacity to meet current and future demands with an additional 48 beds (36 medical/surgical + 12 orthopaedic rehabilitation), 3 additional operating theatres, new ambulatory service of 10-15 treatment rooms and/or chairs, and space for 12 additional consulting suites.

The new East Wing will be located to the east of the existing main building above the campus cafeteria and forecourt. It will consist of:

- Levels 11 and 12: additional 12 doctors' suites
- Levels 7 to 10: additional 48 beds (including 12 new orthopaedic rehab beds)
- Levels 6 and 7: theatre support and new CSSD
- Level 5: additional 2 main operating theatres Level 4: new Ambulatory Care service
- Levels 2 and 3: expansion of support services

In terms of the existing building renovations, the project will involve:

- Levels 6 to 10: renovated inpatient units, including new ensuites and an increased percentage of single rooms in the hospital from 76% to 89%
- Level 5: renovated operating theatres
- Level 3: additional day theatre and renovated Day Surgery Unit.

Construction is planned to commence in August 2015 with completion and commissioning slated for February 2017. This redevelopment will allow St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney respond to our clinical demands and establish a physical environment that meets contemporary healthcare standards.

Construction of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith is set to commence shortly. St Vincent's is partnering with Griffith City Council and prominent local supporters to build a Private Community Hospital that will house two theatres, a 20 bed inpatient unit and 20 day-only beds, as well as the Murrumbidgee Clinical Teaching & Learning Centre.

Combined with the existing Griffith Base Hospital, the interlinked clinical and teaching campus of some 150 hospital beds and related community and primary care infrastructure will see a critical mass of healthcare services established for the people of the Riverina. Access to healthcare has long proven a challenge for the Riverina. In particular, attracting and retaining health professionals. By establishing a community private hospital there it is hoped that it will go a long way to remedying these challenges.

For several years St Vincent's Private Hospital and the Riverina community of Griffith have wanted to establish a community private hospital. The Darlinghurst Campus has had a long-standing historical relationship as a Riverina referral centre. At the same time the Campus has long enjoyed the support of the Griffith community.

St Vincent's Alumni Dinner 2014

On 30 May 2014 the 8th annual Alumni dinner was held at St Vincent's Clinic. Over 110 guests joined the special guest of honour, Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AC CVO, in the St Vincent's Clinic Function Room.

The guest speaker for the night was Associate Professor Brett Courtenay, with support from Dr Anthony Chambers and Dr Andy Higgs, who gave the audience a fascinating insight into "How Military Service Impacts on Clinical Practice". Brett outlined the proud history of military service of St Vincent's alumni – starting with Major Williams in the Sudan in 1885 up to the present medical staff involved in military service (Brett Courtenay, Anthony Chambers, Andy Higgs, Stephen Quain, Howard Roby and Tony Grabs).

Using examples from Banda Aceh and Afghanistan, Brett outlined the lessons learnt in military service and how these can be applied to improving clinical care. The four major lessons outlined were:

- permissive hypotension
- the role of resuscitation teams
- damage control surgery and
- the Dutch (frozen) blood solution

Brett concluded his presentation by noting that military deployment offers a unique experience where accurate data is collected and reviewed and where radical solutions are often found. These techniques can be demonstrated and taught to civilian trainees and colleagues.

Brett, Andy and Anthony answered a number of questions from the audience.

It was wonderful to see so many St Vincent's Alumni at the dinner and we hope to see even more of you at the next dinner which will be held on 29 May 2015. St Vincent's Clinic is most grateful to the speakers and the catering staff for their contributions to the event.



Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AC CVO



Dr Andrew Higgs, A Prof Brett Courtenay and Dr Tony Williams



A Prof Brett Courtenay speaks at the Alumni dinner



Mrs Jacqueline Dwyer, Sr Jacinta Fong RSC & Mrs Anne Sheridan



A/Prof Brett Courtenay & Dr Andrew Higgs



enjoying the evening



Mrs Jacqueline Dwyer, Dr Ruth Hippisley, Mrs Mary-Angela Bellingham & Mrs Anne Sheridan



A Prof Anthony Schembri and Dr Brian Sheridan



Ms Faith Wilson and Mrs Geraldine Brodrick



Dr Michael Jensen and Dr Stephen Quain



Dr Robert Cusack, Mr Kevin Bleasel & Dr John Roarty



Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AC CVO



Sr Anthea Groves RSC & Dr Tony Williams



Sr Pauline Nicholson RSC and Mrs Kath O'Connor



Mr Gary O'Meally, Mrs Elizabeth Mason & Mr Gilbert Vella



Dr Stephen Quain, Prof James Biggs & Dr Anthony Graham



Dr Greg Deacon, Mrs Ronnie Spencer and Dr Ron Spencer



Sr Marie Stanley RSC & Mrs Helen Campion



Dr Richard Bellingham, Mrs Mary-Angela Bellingham & Mr Peter McGovern



Dr Virginia Furner , Ms Ann Lyons, Miss Adrienne Richardson & Miss Patricia Reed



Mr Gilbert Vella & Mrs Margaret Vella



Mr Peter McGovern, Mrs Margaret McGovern & Mrs Mary-Rose Williams



Mrs Kate Church & Mrs Delma Cassin



Mr Kevin Bleasel, Fr Bob Walsh & Dr Richard Mulhearn



Major General Peter Day AO, A Prof Anthony Schembri & Dr Brian Sheridan



Dr John Tonkin, Dr Bill McCarthy, Mrs Margaret Day, Dr John Roarty AO

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