

# St Vincent's Voice

*The latest staff and  
community news from*  
**ST VINCENT'S HEALTH  
NETWORK, SYDNEY**

CHRISTMAS 2014 — ISSUE 04

## Accreditation success for St Joseph's Hospital



**Inside this edition:**

**30 years of HIV care  
at St Vincent's**

**St Vincent's tackles  
Indigenous health**

**ACU St Vincent's Clinical  
Learning Centre**

## A message from Anthony Schembri



**CEO, ST VINCENT'S HEALTH NETWORK SYDNEY**

Major milestones and openings, terrific accreditation results, individual staff and departments being awarded for their leading clinical services and research... this special Christmas edition of St Vincent's Voice is choc-full of impressive achievements for the St Vincent's Network. For me, in my first year back as CEO, I couldn't think of a better way to head into the Festive Season.

This year has been a genuinely good one for our hospitals. Our financial performance has improved greatly but most importantly we have reached extraordinary heights in terms of our patient care and commitment to our mission.

I hope as many of you head off to spend some well-earned time with your loved ones you will have the opportunity to reflect on these achievements and take some pride in the role you have played in helping us achieve all that we have in 2014.



## Short & Sharp

### Lesley Campbell receives prestigious award

We're very proud to announce that Prof Lesley Campbell, Director of Diabetes Services at St Vincent's was recently the recipient of Australian Diabetes Council NSW's most prestigious award – the Sir Kempson Maddox Award, in recognition of her significant contribution to research, education and advocacy in diabetes.

In presenting the award Sturt Eastwood,



CEO of Diabetes NSW said "Her distinguished career and personal passion for helping people living with diabetes should be applauded." We applaud you, Professor Campbell.

## St Vincent's winning Acute Stroke Care team

Congratulations to the St Vincent's Quality in Acute Stroke Care Implementation team who were awarded the 2014 NSW Premier's Public Sector Award for Improving Performance and Accountability.

This was a joint project undertaken by St Vincent's Nursing Research Institute in collaboration with the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation and the National Stroke Foundation, which demonstrated significant and clinically important improvements in stroke care across NSW.



## Follicle fabulousness



Well done to our inaugural Movember Cup winner – Emergency Nurse, Ben Maudlin, who not only raised well over \$1,000 for men's health, but grew an impressive moustache AND is now the proud owner of the inaugural St Vincent's Movember Cup. The Cup was presented to Ben by fellow Mo Bro Anthony Schembri and Dr Louise Emmet from St Vincent's Nuclear Medicine – who is currently conducting prostate cancer research, funded by the Movember Foundation. Nice work Ben.



## WARD 17 SOUTH

# Celebrating 30 years of HIV AIDS care at St Vincent's



ABOVE: ANTHONY SCHEMBRI, CEO SVHNS; SR DEIRDRE HICKEY, RSC; SR CLARE NOLAN, CONGREGATIONAL LEADER, RSC; PROF ANDREW CARR, DIRECTOR HIV, IMMUNOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNIT; SR MARGARET MINES, RSC; PROF DAVID COOPER AO, HIV PHYSICIAN SVHS AND DIRECTOR, KIRBY INSTITUTE.

In 1984 St Vincent's Hospital opened the first dedicated HIV AIDS ward in the country. In the midst of what was a global epidemic, the AIDS virus posed a monumental public health threat – a death sentence for those diagnosed with it, and a cause for unimaginable discrimination and fear in our community.

News spread of hospitals leaving meals outside patient rooms, using disposable plates and cutlery and of nursing staff not wanting to touch affected patients. It was in response to this, the Sisters of Charity took action, and with open arms offered unbiased, compassionate care without fear or discrimination. Ward 17 South was opened to provide the best medical attention available at the time to people with HIV AIDS.

Starting with funding for just two beds, the ward grew in response to the increasing numbers of men and women diagnosed with the virus, and at the height of the epidemic in the 1980's and 90's, Ward 17 South admitted an average of 50 men and women for inpatient care

each month. With no known treatment available at the time, our nurses, doctors and social workers could only manage the often multiple and debilitating symptoms of HIV AIDS, and provide them with a safe, loving environment.

The ward became known as 'Seventh Heaven' amongst the local gay community. A refuge, a safe place without judgement for who they were or how they came to be infected, and for far too many, a place to die.

With time, research produced new drugs and the discovery of combination therapy meant that HIV was no longer a death sentence, but a manageable disease with which people could lead healthy and productive lives. Ward 17

South was closed in November 2002 and while there is no longer a need for a dedicated HIV ward, 30 years on, St Vincent's continues to care for HIV positive patients with a specialised medical, nursing and allied health team. Maintaining its position as a global leader in HIV research, St Vincent's is currently conducting clinical trials on new and emerging drugs and post exposure precautionary medicines.

A commemorative celebration was held at St Vincent's recently on the 30th anniversary of Ward 17 South, where former patients, staff and HIV researchers came together to mark this incredible time in our Hospital's history.



## RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN



## Fit to Play – Quit Today

St Vincent's Hospital is proud to announce a new partnership with the NRL to tackle the high rate of smoking in Indigenous communities with a new campaign – 'Fit to play, quit today'.



Given the major commitment by St Vincent's to improve the health outcomes of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the opportunity to partner with the Australian Rugby League Commission to support their 'Tackle Indigenous Smoking' program was a very welcome collaboration.

The program aims at preventing smoking uptake by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to encourage smoking cessation. This collaboration between St Vincent's and the NRL will gather evidence and look at what strategies work to ensure integrated health

planning – and how we can decrease the comparatively high percentage – 37% of Aboriginal adults aged 16 and over who are currently smoking.

Illawarra St George players George Rose and Joel Thompson along with Mark Deweerd from the NRL, pictured here with Pauline Deweerd, St Vincent's Aboriginal Health Manager, joined the St Vincent's campaign launch.

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*37% of Aboriginal adults aged 16 and over are currently smoking.*

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## ST JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

## Accreditation success at St Joseph's Hospital

St Joseph's Hospital achieved outstanding feedback from surveyors as the Hospital was recently awarded a 4-year Accreditation by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS). Conducted by an independent body the accreditation system is based on:

- Consumer focus
- Effective leadership
- Continuous improvement
- Evidence of outcomes
- And best practise principles

St Joseph's underwent an organisational wide survey against

the 10 National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and five EQuIP National Standards. The Hospital achieved an impressive 100% for compliance on core mandatory actions and 97% of developmental non-mandatory actions.

There were no high priority recommendations received from the review and all previous recommendations were met and exceeded. Overall the surveyors were extremely impressed with the high level of care and of the Hospital's achievements.

St Vincent's Health Network Sydney CEO Anthony Schembri said "To see Joey's achieve such an excellent accreditation result is a true testament of all the hard work of the Hospital's Executive team and wider staff, marks one of my proudest days at St Vincent's yet". Congratulations to all involved.



ABOVE: CEO ACHS; SHIRLEY SAXTON, VOLUNTEER; LINDA SIMONIAN, RECORDS CLERK; PAT CHAN, HOD SOCIAL WORK; JULIE THOMAS, NURSING ADMIN; MARIE SCOLLARD, COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE; ALICE DANG, WHS COORDINATOR; STELLA KOK, QUALITY MANAGER; A/PROF JOHN GEOGHEGAN, GENERAL MANAGER.

## RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

## St Vincent's launches Indigenous health clinic

St Vincent's Hospital has partnered with Walla Mulla Family and Community Support centre in Woolloomooloo to directly address the health inequities faced by our local Indigenous community.

While cardiovascular conditions including heart disease, stroke and vascular disease are the most common cause of death in Australia, it's a disturbing reality that cardiovascular disease in Aboriginal Australians is 30% more common than in non-Aboriginal Australians and is responsible for more than half of preventable deaths amongst our Indigenous communities. With education and proper access

to health care facilities, this tragic statistic can be significantly reduced. To help achieve this, Walla Mulla and St Vincent's will be opening a free weekly Indigenous health care clinic from January 2015 that will enable our local Indigenous community to receive good quality care and have access to medical education and support, before they need hospitalisation.



ALEX GREENWICH, AUNTY FAY CARROLL, AUNTY ROBIN CARROLL, ANTHONY SCHEMBRI, AUNTY KAY DUNDAS.

## ANDREA LOCK &amp; PAUL FRAME



## The 2 of Us



PAUL FRAME AND ANDREA LOCK.

Confronting for anyone, the Emergency Department can pose a whole new level of discomfort and fear for those presenting to our Hospital with a mental health disorder.

"It's not a particularly good place for people who are distressed, depressed or psychotic" says Paul Frame, NUM of Psychiatric Emergency Care (PECC), part of our

Emergency Department. But it's this unfortunate reality that has led to a unique partnership between two fairly unlikely colleagues. Responsible for Clinical Redesign and

Service Improvement, Andrea Lock has found herself immersed in Paul's team of emergency psychiatric care staff, while Paul is now in Project Management mode. "It's a mix I would never have expected in my career but it's a fantastic opportunity", says Paul.

Andrea agrees "Paul gets to learn about project management and I get to learn about a whole new discipline. I love working with the mental health team, there is never a dull moment and they're very much a family. Despite the differences in their roles, the pair share a common goal – making sure we put our mental health patients at the forefront of everything we do. "This project is about working out systems and processes that we can put in place to make sure we're giving our

patients the best care we can" explained Andrea. The pair are focused on finding solutions to get more mental health patients into beds more efficiently. "It's about the journey of mental health patients into ED and then moving them into an appropriate bed, alternative facility or home as efficiently and safely as we can", says Paul. "It's what drives me".

Having completed the analysis phase of the project, Paul and Andrea plan on making their recommendations to Hospital executive team by the end of the year. "Whatever we put in place, the focus has to be about what's best for our patients it can't solely be about what's best for the Hospital.

"Building relationships across disciplines like this develops a real sense of unity – we're all in this together", says Paul.

## ST VINCENT'S &amp; ACU

Clinical Skills Centre



## St Vincent's and ACU opens state-of-the-art Clinical Skills Centre

Through a partnership with St Vincent's and the Australian Catholic University a new state-of-the-art teaching and learning centre has been established in the Cator Building at St Vincent's Darlinghurst campus.

The new Centre is equipped to simulate ward environments and other health contexts that will build skills and knowledge to the benefit our current workforce, and future generations of health professionals working here at St Vincent's. The facility has the capacity to utilise blended learning techniques including immersive simulation activities with varying levels of complexity, debriefing, group tutorial sessions, task training classes, seminar and skills based learning activities across all our disciplines and specialties.

Set to exponentially increase the development of our nursing and medical staff across all disciplines and specialties,

the new simulation centre will also promote the sharing of clinical knowledge and expertise amongst undergraduates, transition practitioners, post graduate students and health professionals continuing their professional development.

The centre was officially opened by the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, Federal Member for Wentworth and blessed by the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney.

In opening the Centre, Minister Turnbull paid tribute to the "extraordinary St Vincent's Precinct", noting that "whenever I come to St Vincent's I get a sense of the greatest human emotion we can aspire to; love. The Clinical School is

about practising God's love."

For Archbishop Fischer, the opening marked his first visit to the St Vincent's Campus in his new role. He spoke about the fact that the Catholic Church is the world's largest provider of healthcare and education, "Today these two apostolates of the Catholic Church have come together."

ACU Vice Chancellor Professor Greg Craven spoke of the alignment between St Vincent's and ACU noting that with both institutions starting in 1857, they now have a strong future together with the establishment of the new Centre. Currently there are 130 clinical placements at the St Vincent's Health Network for ACU students.



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, CHRISTINE HARVEY (CENTRE) WITH SOME OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS – AND A TRUCK-LOAD OF PRESENTS.

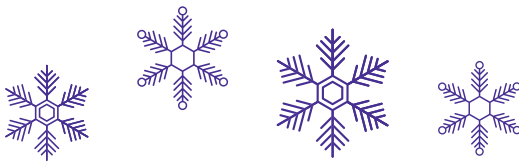


#### GIVING TREE APPEAL

## We ♥ happy kids

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Giving Tree Gift appeal. This year we had a record request for 2,135 gifts for underprivileged children under the care of forty agencies throughout NSW.

Thanks to the generosity of those connected with St Vincent's we reached our target! As a result 2,135 children will now have a smile on their face on Christmas morning, who might have otherwise gone without.



#### BRETT GARDINER, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER AND DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL GOVERNANCE

## What I know about... Brett Gardiner

As Chief Medical Officer and Director of Clinical Governance of the St Vincent's Health Network Sydney, Brett relaxes by getting his hands dirty in the garden of his Cheltenham property on the edge of the Lane Cove National Park.

I love spending time in the garden on the weekend. Following a busy week at the Hospital my pulse rate really comes down after a few hours in the garden or a trip to one of the local nurseries.

It's very rewarding to watch things grow. I also get a lot of enjoyment from seeing native wildlife enjoy the habitat. Our 'empty nest' is now home to a variety of species from brush turkeys and kookaburras to possums and even the odd blue tongue lizard!

My favourite gardening jobs are pruning the roses in July and planting the spring bulbs (jonquils and blue bells)

on Anzac Day. I'm trying my hand at propagating yellow clivias. My last project was establishing bromeliads in a rockery framed by Japanese maples and hanging baskets of fuchsias. The climate makes plant selection challenging, so seeing my frangipani flower in summer after winter is exciting.

Recently, our garden known as Jours de Rêve (French for daydream) opened as part of the Open Gardens Australia program. Over 200 people visited, including many colleagues from St Vincent's, with over \$700 raised for The Sisters of Charity Outreach.



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*It's very rewarding to watch things grow. I also get a lot of enjoyment from seeing native wildlife enjoy the habitat.*  
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## FEATURE INTERVIEW

## Interview with Noah Mitchell

Noah Mitchell is Department Head of St Vincent's Physiotherapy



*What major breakthroughs in your field, do you think/hope we will see in the future?*

Over the next five years I hope we see an increase in the number of programs that can identify patients at an early stage of their disease and implement effective strategies to prevent progression and improve patients' quality of life.

*What are the challenges you see now, and in the coming?*

The main challenge for physiotherapy is ensuring that we are in a position to utilise our skills to the maximum benefit of the patients and the Hospital. Physiotherapists have a wide and deep array of skills and knowledge and we often provide a valuable and cost-effective service to our patients. We need to ensure we are involved in the planning of services throughout the Hospital so our patients have access to the best possible treatment.

*What do you love the most about what you do?*

I really enjoy the planning and implementation of innovative new services. It can be difficult and there are often road-blocks but I'm lucky to work in a department and hospital full of talented and dedicated people. I also enjoy our patients. I work clinically in Cardiac Rehabilitation and it is great to interact with people and see the positive changes over the span of the program.

*What motivates you on a daily basis?*

Good question! From a professional perspective, it's being able to work

in a dynamic and often challenging environment with a group of dedicated physiotherapists. The department has its ups and downs but we always rise to the challenge -and there are a few!

From a personal perspective, it is my wife and three kids (they are often my motivation to flee the house in the morning!)

*Tell us one of your favourite stories during your time at St Vincent's?*

Not so much a story as a few words of wisdom. A few years ago, the late, great Prof Harrison said something that has stuck with me ever since. He said that the history of hospitals is usually written in terms of medical breakthroughs, new buildings and distinguished surgeons. Whilst these things are important it is the hidden history that is most important: the people who turn up each day and work hard for the benefit of the patients. The history books may forget them but the patients never do and that is the key to a great hospital.

*What is your proudest moment, professionally speaking?*

I was involved in the project group that established an Orthopaedic Outreach Clinic at the Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service in 2010. This service provides orthopaedic assessment, treatment and referral for a patient group who previously had great difficulty in accessing appropriate care groups to enable a comfortable sharing environment to identify and address issues relevant to each individual.

## KNOW YOUR PRODUCT

## Facts & Figures



# 600M

Litres of water consumed across SVHA nationally, every year



# 3,766

Endoscopies performed in the last financial year



# 1,310

Episodes of care provided at Gorman House.



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