

# ST VINCENT'S Voice

OCTOBER 2019 — ISSUE 20

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

## CELEBRATING OUR STAFF'S INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE

Inside this edition:

- Advanced Cardiac MRI Unit opens
- SVHNS hosts the 3rd annual Safety & Quality Forum
- St Joseph's raise a bucket-load for MND





STEVEN CARR

Acting CEO, St Vincent's Health  
Network Sydney

**S**erving as Acting CEO for the past few weeks has given me an opportunity to see and be part of a broad array of our endeavours throughout our Network, and I think the main thing I'll take away with me, is the commitment among our staff to person centered care and innovation.

So as I write this Foreword, I think it's timely that this edition of St Vincent's Voice covers the recent SVHNS Innovation & Excellence Awards as well as a range of additional articles that really highlight the fact that our Mission is thriving.

One specific article that makes me particularly proud is the collaboration to provide Alcohol & Drug support via telehealth clinics to the Murrumbidgee LHD. Throughout Australia there is a shortage of Alcohol & Drug services in regional and remote communities – often in towns who need these services most, so it's great we're providing this critical outreach to the people of the Riverina.

Enjoy,  
Steven

# + SHORT SHARP



## Drug & Alcohol services goes rural

Congratulations to A/Prof Nadine Ezard who will share in almost \$6 million research funding from NSW Health. Nadine and her team will investigate the delivery of specialist drug and alcohol medical services, through a mixture of telehealth and fly-in-fly-out care, for people in rural and remote areas where there can be limited access to specialists.



## Less time in ED

Congratulations to the team behind our 'Less time in ED' Project, who were awarded a Graduate Certificate (Clinical Redesign) from the ACI Centre for Healthcare Redesign School. This project aims to improve patient and staff safety and experience, by eliminating extended lengths of stay in the ED exceeding 24 hours by December 2019. Go team!



## ST V's TV

Have you seen St V's TV? St Vincent's recently embarked upon an exciting program of improving access to health awareness and health promotion, using a dedicated YouTube channel called St V's TV.

We are fortunate to have the best experts in their specialties and St V's TV is now providing a platform to discuss a cross-section of topical health issues that our people are passionate about. Feel free to reach out to our St V's TV producer at [Hannah.gardiner@svha.org.au](mailto:Hannah.gardiner@svha.org.au) to pitch a topic!



## Safety First

We've installed bollards at the front of our beloved deLacy Building to improve the safety and security of staff, patients and visitors. Thanks so much to these guys who made it all possible.



L-R: Prof Robert Graham, Executive Director Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute; A/Prof Anthony Schembri AM, CEO St Vincent's Health Network Sydney; The Hon. Brad Hazzard, Minister for Health & Medical Research, Prof Michael Feneley AM, Director Cardiology, Mr Paul Robertson, SVHA Chairman.

## Advanced Cardiac MRI Unit opens

NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard recently opened the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Centre at St Vincent's Hospital – the first of its type in Australia. A joint initiative of the St Vincent's Heart Lung Service and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, the new Centre brings two powerful and complementary cardiac imaging techniques, CT and MRI, together in a single space for the first time, operated by cardiologists and a dedicated team of radiographers.

In opening the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Centre, Minister Hazzard noted "The St Vincent's Campus has long pioneered both cardiac treatment and research, achieving many international firsts. I am delighted that both St Vincent's clinicians and Victor Chang researchers will now both be benefitting from powerful imaging technology to improve their diagnostic capability to enable new cardiac procedures, and importantly, gain a greater understanding of the functioning of the heart."

The great strength of dedicated cardiac CT scanning is that it replaces the need to place catheters into the heart to image the coronary arteries. The new scanner will allow St Vincent's to image the entire heart and its blood supply through the coronary arteries in a small fraction of a single heart-beat. The CT is also being used to diagnose diseases within the body's largest artery; the aorta, and to plan a raft of therapeutic procedures on the structure of the heart, such as replacing a heart valve without surgery.

The dedicated 3 Tesla cardiac MRI produces moving images

of all the heart structures without any radiation of the patient, including alterations in the structure and texture of the muscular walls of the heart, while also permitting the most accurate measurements of blood flow through the chambers of the heart and also within the heart muscle.

In addition to the benefits to St Vincent's patients in terms of the greater speed, comfort, safety and improved diagnostic accuracy provided, the Imaging Centre also provides enormous clinical research capacity.

In light of this, the NSW State Government awarded the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute a \$3.5 million Innovation Grant to fund the purchase and installation of the cardiac MRI component of the new Imaging Centre. St Vincent's was able to raise an additional \$4 million through the efforts of the St Vincent's Curran Foundation, to acquire the CT and fit out a new purpose built facility within St Vincent's.

## St Vincent's Telehealth delivering alcohol & drug support to rural communities.



Dr Craig Rodgers

### St Vincent's Alcohol and Drug Service are working in collaboration with Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) Drug and Alcohol Service to pilot a new Alcohol & Drug Telehealth Service.

The Alcohol & Drug Telehealth Service provides Addiction Medicine Specialist clinics via videoconferencing, thereby improving access to specialist care for individuals affected by substance use dependence who are living in the Murrumbidgee region.

The Alcohol & Drug Telehealth Service is now operating as a nine month pilot initiative. Two Telehealth clinics are provided each week and a new Model of Care is being trialled.

The Model of Care involves Specialist support from St Vincent's, provided as part of a 'shared care' approach, where day-to-day care is delivered by MLHD Drug & Alcohol clinicians in between specialist Telehealth appointments.

In addition to the Telehealth clinics, St Vincent's Addiction Medicine Specialists are also offering alcohol and drug specialist clinical skills training, capacity building and support for health professionals in the Murrumbidgee region, including upskilling interested rural GPs to prescribe Opioid Agonist Treatment and other pharmacotherapies. Clinical support is available to GPs in the region who are interested in becoming accredited prescribers of methadone, buprenorphine and buprenorphine-naloxone through the Opioid Treatment Accreditation Course.

This exciting new rural healthcare initiative has been made possible due to the generous support of St Vincent's Health Australia's 'Inclusive Health Program', and will go a long way to serving our mission in the provision of care for vulnerable people, who are currently unable to access the specialist treatment to reduce harm and aid recovery.



Panel discussion (L-R): Dr Marianne Vonau OAM; Melissa Davey (journalist); Kate McClymont (journalist); Vivian Pollnow (consumer representative)

## SVHN 3rd Annual Quality & Safety Forum

St Vincent's recently held the third annual Patient Safety and Quality Forum, bringing together staff from across St Vincent's, St Joseph's, Sacred Heart and with newest team members at St Vincent's Correctional Health.

With an inspiring line-up of speakers from both St Vincent's and externally, it was an opportunity to hear about innovative and yet simple ways to improve the quality and safety of care for our consumers.

At the event, CEO A/Prof Anthony Schembri, AM announced the new mandate to end preventable harm for our patients and their families with a new target of zero preventable harm.

Additionally, the establishment of the St Vincent's Curran Foundation Scholarship in Quality and Safety was announced. This

new scholarship will support the professional development of our people in leading healthcare at the edge and pursuing innovation to ensure our patients receive the best care, as we aim for zero preventable harm for our patients.

The scholarship will be awarded each year, to support successful applicants to develop skills and capability in translating ideas, research and concepts, from other health services or non-health industries outside of Australia, into world best practice in quality and patient safety initiatives at St Vincent's.

Submissions for the scholarship are now open, and close on 30 November. Look out for details in the Daily Bulletin.



# 2019 SVHN Innovation & Excellence Awards



St Vincent's Health Network recently celebrated the Annual Innovation and Excellence Awards, providing an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the extraordinary work that our people do every day that directly make a positive difference to the lives of our patients, their loved ones and our broader communities.

With projects spanning across the organisation's Mission, Innovation, and Person Centred Care imperatives, 22 programs and individuals were singled out, providing the wider organisation an insider overview of new and innovative ways to address unmet needs and deliver holistic care.

In serving, seeing and striving for something greater we regularly extend our minds to reach beyond the way it's always been, to find new ways that provide better outcomes for our patients, residents and the communities in which we serve.

Congratulations to all entrants to this year's Awards and to the finalists, who will go on to represent St Vincent's Health Network at the SVHA National Awards in October.

## It's cool to be kind. St Joseph's Ice Bucket challenge



**T**he Ice Bucket challenge has become an important annual event at St Joseph's, with an ever growing number of buckettees, and a growing achievement in funds raised!

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is close to the heart of St Joseph's, who houses one of the State's leading multidisciplinary MND services.

The MND program at St Joseph's Hospital is a state-wide multidisciplinary specialty service, and one of the leading providers of dedicated MND treatment in Australia. The team follow the patients' journey from diagnosis, through to disability management, to palliative, and end of life care.

Special guest, Mr Jason Clare MP, Federal Minister for Blaxland was amongst those that took up the icy challenge, saying "It's important that events like this raise awareness and funds to fight this terrible disease".

Motor Neurone Disease is a progressive disease that causes devastating disability. It paralyses different parts of the body in different patients, not always progressing the same way from patient to patient. Often starting with the arms, legs, trunk and the muscles used for speech and swallowing, patients lose their ability to walk, speak, swallow, and ultimately to breathe.

This devastating disease is terminal, usually within two-three years from diagnosis. The St Joseph's team help manage this process for patients and carers alike, through their high level of expertise, as well as their boundless compassion.

This year, the team raised in excess of \$12,000 for Motor Neurone Disease, and have vowed to continue every year until a cure is found.

## Feature interview with

# JOYCE BAYE

*Acting Director of Nursing and Operations, St Joseph's Hospital*

Joyce joined St Joseph's in 2014 as a Clinical Nurse Educator. Since then she has had the opportunity to work as a NUM, cover as After Hours Nurse Manager, Acting Deputy Director of Nursing and is currently Acting Director of Nursing and Operations. Her role is responsible for the daily operational activities and ensuring delivery of clinical services within allocated resources.



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

I hope to see nursing- led research at SJH. SJH has specialist services caring for patients with Huntington's Disease and Motor Neurone Disease. I hope to see more research into understanding these conditions and how we can continuously improve in delivering person centred care to this group of patients.

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

Ensuring that all our nursing staff have adequate knowledge, understanding and clinical skills to be able to provide safe, exceptional nursing care to all our patients. Patients' complexity continues to change and it is imperative that nursing is responsive to this change.

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

The people I work with. It is good to see so many people striving to achieve the best outcomes for our patients.

*What motivates you on a daily basis?*

Being given the opportunity to grow and serve others. Continually trying to improve in my practice as well as supporting others to do what they do best - deliver great patient care to patients at St Joseph's Hospital.

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

One of my favourite stories is how SJH staff are friendly and welcoming to visitors and new staff. It made it easier for me to integrate into the team and I hope that we will continue with this legacy.

*What is your proudest moment, professionally speaking?*

We recently had the Ice bucket challenge at SJH. It was good to see so many of our staff coming together for one cause.

## FACTS + FIGURES

### ZERO

Lost time injuries in SHHS for  
12+ months



100%  
NEST in all categories  
at June 2019

### 55+

Active telehealth services



[www.svhs.org.au](http://www.svhs.org.au)

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