

# St Vincent's Voice

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

OCTOBER 2015 — ISSUE 06

## St Vincent's Campus receives \$5m for master planning

Inside this edition:

Sacred Heart turns 125

Packer family announces 10 year partnership

Staff & friends let their hair down at the  
annual staff ball



## A message from Anthony Schembri



CEO, ST VINCENT'S HEALTH NETWORK SYDNEY

It's been an amazing few months of incredible achievements at St Vincent's since our last edition – too much to fit into one newsletter.

Our Board Chairman Paul Robertson and National CEO Toby Hall joined us at our Darlinghurst and Auburn campuses to launch enVision 2025, the new SVHA strategic plan where we are all invited to act upon "seeing, striving and serving something greater."

In a true reflection of that vision, the Hon Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health recently announced \$5m funding for planning of the St Vincent's Healthcare and Research Campus to expand our existing services, grow our specialty services and extend services to the poor and marginalised.

We also welcomed the Hon Pru Goward, Minister for Mental Health to announce further funding for the Stimulant Treatment Centre; \$14m for new models of care in Emergency, and in drug and alcohol treatment services. Moreover, we have finalised our clinical streams leadership and I'd like to congratulate Mr Peter Comerford on his appointment as Director for Integrated Care, Ms Jenny O'Mahony as Clinical Manager for Inner City Health and Mr Drew Kear as Clinical Manager for Sub-Acute Services.

Enjoy,

## Short & Sharp

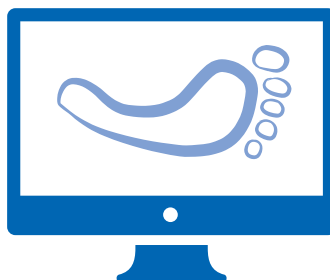
### Top marks!

The American Thoracic Society recently conducted an independent review of submitted literature publications of the last 3 years and named St Vincent's Hospital as being responsible for 2 of the top 6 presented. **Well done to Professor Allan Glanville and team.**



### eHealth tool improves gout

Professor Ric Day, Head of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, has been successful in securing \$661,000 to trial an eHealth tool to improve outcomes for patients with gout. The two-year randomised controlled trial with GPs will test whether the approach is effective in encouraging gout patients to continue with their treatment and medication.



### Good Fellow!

Professor David Cooper AO, HIV Physician at St Vincent's, has been elected Fellow of the newly formed Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS). Joining more than 130 scientists, clinicians and educators, Professor Cooper joins the Academy to provide the Australian Government, industry and the community with advice on issues relating to evidence-based medical practice and medical research in Australia.



### Champion for the cause

Dr Shari Parker, Rehabilitation specialist at St Vincent's and President of the World Albinism Alliance has been featured as a 'champion of the albinism cause' in the United Nation's campaign and recently presented a Ted X Talk. **Love your work Dr Parker!**



DR SHARI PARKER



## STRIVING FOR SOMETHING GREATER



A/PROF ANTHONY SCHEMBRI, SR ANTHEA GROVES RSC,  
HEALTH MINISTER SKINNER, BRUCE NOTLEY-SMITH

## Government provides landmark \$5m funding for Campus Master Planning

Last month Health Minister Jillian Skinner announced that the NSW Government will provide \$5 million in seed funding over two years to undertake the next stage of planning for the St Vincent's Integrated Healthcare and Research Campus.

The funding will ensure the Darlinghurst Campus remains a key provider in NSW's health system, meeting growth in service needs in a more effective way through integrating our services providing better treatment of chronic diseases and promoting campus wide research and teaching.

This planning for the future is centred around several enVision 2025 priorities to adopt innovative models of care, expand existing facilities, grow our specialty services, extend our services to the poor and marginalised and strengthen existing partnerships, particularly those relating to research.

The \$5 million in seed funding will enable St Vincent's and our research partners to work up plans around five key priority areas. Firstly the creation of an Integrated Care Centre to provide an "innovative and efficient" service to reduce demands on acute hospital services and provide an alternative pathway for lower-acuity patients currently presenting to the Emergency Department.

Secondly, establishing Australia's first Heart Lung Vascular Institute to meet increasing demand for highly complex heart and lung care, and fostering research collaborations between

St Vincent's and Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

Another key priority area is strengthening services for vulnerable populations in inner Sydney, with the introduction of new services and creating co-location opportunities for NGO partners. Similarly, the expansion of translational research and education facilities is another key priority area through integrating clinical trial space into new facilities, and a major redevelopment of the former Cahill-Cator site to provide space for advanced research, education and teaching facilities.

The final key priority area is increasing the service capacity of the campus in both public and private hospital settings to ensure future health services meet demand and provide patient choice.

Mrs Skinner was joined at St Vincent's Hospital by Member for Coogee Bruce Notley-Smith as she viewed plans for the expansion of the Darlinghurst campus noting "The name St Vincent's has long been synonymous with outstanding hospital care and research breakthroughs. I am very pleased this seed funding will kick start planning on how to future-proof this iconic campus, to ensure its excellence for decades to come."

SERVING SOMETHING GREATER



PROF STEVEN FAUX, SACRED HEART REHABILITATION;  
HELEN MILLER, AGED CARE SVHA, PROF RICHARD CHYE,  
SACRED HEART PALLIATIVE CARE



THE ORIGINAL SACRED HEART  
HOSPICE CIRCA 1890

## Sacred Heart's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

125 years ago, Sr Xavier Cunningham received a complaint from a patient who had been sent home from St Vincent's Hospital because his sickness was beyond treatment available at the time. The Sisters addressed this feedback head-on, and sometime thereafter founded Sacred Heart Hospice for the Dying – Australia's first hospice.

Over the years, the Hospice grew from an initial 12 beds, expanding to meet the demands of the growing community and in the 1980s at the height of the HIV epidemic, the Hospice was sadly at its busiest, as a 100 bed unit.

With medical breakthroughs and continually improving treatment options, diseases that were once fatal became largely manageable as chronic, but non-life threatening conditions.

And with cancer survival rates at an all-time high and patients living much longer, Sacred Heart Palliative Care beds retracted and the service began providing dignified care in the patients' home allowing many more people to pass away in their own space, surrounded by loved ones.

Working with the Government's palliative care plan which provides resources to increase support for patients who wish to end their life journey at home, Professor Richard Chye, Director of Palliative Care at St Vincent's, said he has seen the number of patients who wished to die at home increase from around 15% to 40% because of these initiatives.

These days Sacred Heart is much more than a hospice, and includes Sacred Heart Rehabilitation providing extensive rehabilitation medicine and giving our patients

access to state-of-the-art treatment options to get them back on their feet and into good health.

How grateful we are to that disgruntled patient 125 years ago who helped identify a hole in healthcare provision, to the Sisters for their foresight, and to Health Minister Jillian Skinner and the many other dignitaries, special guests and staff who joined us to mark this very special occasion.



A/PROF ANTHONY SCHEMBRI

SERVING SOMETHING GREATER

## The Packer family goes the extra mile

Earlier this month, members of the Packer family joined us at St Vincent's to announce the continuation of their support for heart lung retrievals for a further ten years.



MRS ROSLYN PACKER AO WITH SR ANTHEA GROVES RSC OAM

The multi-million dollar commitment from the Packer Family Foundation and the Crown Resorts Foundation will facilitate long distance retrievals of donated organs through financial support to cover the costly process of safe and timely transportation of heart and lungs across the country.

Gretel Packer, Chair of the Packer Family Foundation, said "We are exceptionally proud to be able to continue our support of St Vincent's, a hospital renowned for its significant research activities and speciality units – many of which are recognised as centres of excellence. Their Heart and Lung Transplant Unit continues to lead the world in innovation and excellence, and importantly save lives."

SEEING SOMETHING GREATER

## St Joseph's taking care of seniors

After a local senior community member's death in their home went unnoticed for some time, St Joseph's Occupational Therapy team saw an opportunity to better support the community and our ageing population by launching an awareness campaign to help identify and manage isolated seniors in Auburn.

By educating local business and community members to watch for signs such as appearing frail, living alone, communication difficulties or withdrawing from community, members of the public are better able to identify locals at risk and do something about it.

Collaborating with Auburn City Council, NSW Police and Baptist Care, the campaign aims to raise awareness to residents, business owners and key stakeholders within Auburn city of the signs of social isolation in the elderly, and how to assist with the minimisation of the harming effects of this community-wide issue.

A working party was established to develop a pathway to existing programs and provide streamlined and efficient management of isolated seniors in Auburn including peer support groups, community transport, regular phone calls and a home visiting service. Additionally, St Joseph's have received funding to provide a personal alarm monitoring service to eligible older people in Auburn. Community care at its best.



SERVING SOMETHING GREATER



Tune in to see our amazing Emergency staff in action on the brand new series of Kings Cross ER, St Vincent's Hospital.

Thursday nights at 7:30pm,  
on Channel 9

STRIVING FOR SOMETHING GREATER



HEALTH MINISTER SKINNER  
OFFICIALLY LAUNCHING THE ST VINCENT'S  
CAMPUS CANCER PLAN

## St Vincent's launches 5 year Cancer Plan

The St Vincent's Campus Cancer Plan 2015-2020 was recently launched, detailing our strategic direction for cancer services over the next five years. It outlines how we intend on improving cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment, ensuring equitable access to treatment for patients from disadvantaged backgrounds, achieving breakthroughs in treatment, improving quality of life and survival rates.

SEEING SOMETHING GREATER



A/PROF ANTHONY SCHEMBRI SHOWCASING PLANS FOR THE PANDA UNIT TO THE HON. PRU GOWARD, MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

## St Vincent's Emergency to open PANDA unit

With St Vincent's busy Emergency Department seeing an ever increasing rate in patients presenting with both mental health as well as drug and alcohol related conditions, the Department has been challenged to effectively treat this cohort of patient within the current physical and layout limitations of the department. The Hon. Pru Goward, Minister for Mental Health visited the

Emergency Department to announce \$1.5 million from NSW Health to commence the St Vincent's Hospital Psychiatric Alcohol and Non-Prescription Drug Assessment (PANDA) Unit. This falls within the \$14 million Emergency Department enhancements that will reconfigure the physical space in the Emergency Department to directly address projected growth in Emergency presentations.

Once complete, the six bed PANDA unit will be collocated with an expanded Psychiatric Emergency Care Clinic (PECC) to improve the assessment and treatment of patients with mental health and drug and alcohol related conditions as well as other improvements to the ED facilities.

ARABIAN NIGHTS

# St Vincent's Staff Ball 2015

After a hard day's work, our St Vincent's staff let their hair down to celebrate at the annual Staff Ball on Friday 21 August. It was a wild Arabian Nights party with staff going all out to dress in theme with lots of harem pants, exotic jewellery and even a blue genie! Celebrations kicked on well into the night with guests feasting on great food, catching up with friends and dancing the night away.

Thanks to all who joined us to celebrate a year of hard work at St Vincent's!



SERVING SOMETHING GREATER

# NAIDOC Week 2015



This year's week-long NAIDOC celebrations were educational, cultural and spiritual. We shared a wonderful calendar of events – a Flag Raising ceremony, a presentation from guest speaker

Professor Ngaire Brown who inspired our staff with her passion and insights on addressing Aboriginal health, a special NAIDOC Mass, and a wonderful Smoking Ceremony by Uncle Max, with very special guest speaker Aunty Fay from Walla Mulla who shared her moving and very personal journey with us.



UNCLE MAX



## FEATURE INTERVIEW

## KNOW YOUR PRODUCT

## Interview with Katy O'Neill

Clinical Psychologist

Katy has been working in the Gambling Treatment Program at St Vincent's Hospital since 2006.



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

I hope for general recognition of the dangers of poker machines; that they're not a harmless form of entertainment. This has already been acknowledged by the productivity commission but not yet widely accepted. Implications for venues and governments if this was acknowledged would be enormous.

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

I think online gambling (especially using smart phones) is a potential disaster. The availability and ease of access to gambling are already well known to be risk factors so being able to gamble on line, anytime, anywhere, and access easy credit is a perfect storm.

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

I love the variety and creativity, courage and persistence that people show when they come for treatment at the Gambling Treatment Program. Everyone seems to make the program their own, sometimes in surprising ways that I hadn't thought of. Despite many years of working with problem gamblers I'm still learning about problem gambling. I don't believe that there is a simple one size fits all answer – that doesn't mean people need to wait for an ultimate answer before they quit.

*What motivates you on a daily basis?*

It's very moving to see someone's old self blossom again when they finally emerge from the tunnel vision and painful vicious circle of their problem gambling. They reconnect with old friends, resume abandoned interests, or pick up new ones, they gradually regain the trust of their family. Quite a lot of men seem to build decks when they first quit.

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

Recently a young man rang who had successfully quit gambling several years ago. He rang because he was worried about a friend. It was good to catch up with someone who had left his gambling a long way behind him – after treatment he had married and they had a baby boy.

*What is your proudest moment, professionally speaking?*

Representing the St Vincent's Gambling Treatment Program at a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform. It's important that the issue remains on the agenda.

## Facts & Figures



**\$17M**

**Raised by St Vincent's Curran Foundation in the last financial year to support SV's**



**1,700**

**Heart/Lung transplants performed from 1984 – 2014**



**1975**

**The year the first bone marrow transplant in Australia performed at St Vincent's, by Dr Jim Biggs**



Committed to its Environmental Stewardship Strategy and Policy, St Vincent's Health Australia aims to continually improve its environmental performance. This publication is printed on 100% recycled paper which is Forest Stewardship Council recycled certified and is certified carbon neutral. The pulp is processed chlorine free, is manufactured by an ISO 14001 certified mill and the publication is printed using an alcohol-free print process and vegetable based inks. © 2015 St Vincent's Health Australia. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, internet, or otherwise, without prior permission of the publishers. Designed by Designer Rice.