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## **Australian-first model of care to reduce admissions for Sutherland Hospital patients**

In an Australian-first, Sutherland Hospital has launched the Rapid Assessment, Diagnosis and Intervention Unit Sutherland (RADIUS), a new model of care which aims to prevent Emergency Department admissions wherever possible.

RADIUS is an alternative pathway for patients presenting with complex medical conditions who are not critically unwell and are aged 16 years or over.

Associate Professor Peter Gonski, Director, Aged Care and Rehabilitation, Sutherland Hospital and South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, said the community-facing unit within Sutherland Hospital provides rapid, responsive care to help people avoid or reduce the time they spend in hospital through thorough assessment and coordination with community services.

“Emergency Departments in Australia are under increasing pressure due to the high demand for access to emergency services. Likewise, it is becoming more common for patients to present with multiple chronic and complex conditions or a history of chronic illness.

“The Sutherland Shire has an ageing population with a high number of people living with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, arthritis and high cholesterol,” Associate Professor Gonski said.

“RADIUS aims to address some access challenges for people with these conditions, and provide benefits including improved links with GPs and outreach services to deliver patient care closer to home.”

RADIUS is staffed by a multidisciplinary team, including doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and social workers. Patient referrals are currently accepted from the Sutherland Hospital Emergency Department, community health and GPs in the local area.

Valerie Jovanovic, General Manager, Sutherland Hospital, said the launch of RADIUS has strengthened Sutherland Hospital’s position as a leader in providing community integrated care.

“The primary objective of RADIUS is to improve the health outcomes of our patients, and to achieve a patient-centred approach with improved pathways and better coordination in order to discharge people home.

“RADIUS aims to support the fundamentals of effective healthcare – to ensure the right patients are treated in the right place for the care they require,” Ms Jovanovic said.