

11 May 2020

NURSES AND MIDWIVES CELEBRATED

The important work done by more than 50,000 Nurses and Midwives in NSW Health's hospitals and services has been acknowledged on International Day of the Midwife on 5 May and International Nurses Day on 12 May, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale.

While planned celebrations for International Year of the Nurse and Midwife have mostly been suspended due to restrictions on gatherings, Vicki Manning, Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services, St George Hospital said this was the perfect time to congratulate the nursing and midwifery staff who have shown strength in unity during this difficult time.

"I am so proud of the way all our staff handled the extra pressures that have been put on them as we have prepared for the pandemic," Ms Manning said.

"We have an incredible team of nurses and midwives here at St George Hospital who continue to put the care and safety of their patients first, even while working under stressful conditions."

Lisa Johnson, who has worked as a nurse at St George Hospital for the entirety of her 16 year career, is currently holding the important position of Nurse Unit Manager of the hospital's COVID-19/ Flu Assessment Clinic.

"With experience working in the Emergency Department and as a Nurse Educator, Lisa was the perfect choice for this position and I would like to congratulate her on the incredible job she is doing," Ms Manning said.

Lisa was instrumental in the set-up of the clinic, advising on the triage system so that patients move through the clinic with minimal transactions, and has supervised the day to day running of the clinic since it opened on Thursday 19 March.

"People have a lot of questions when they come to the clinic and a large part of this job is educating patients by providing them with as much information as we can," Ms Johnson said.

"We recognise people coming in are fearful so we offer them high levels of reassurance and answer all of their questions as we want them to walk out feeling like they have been well cared for and know what to expect once they leave the clinic."

"At the COVID-19 Clinic, we don't just provide testing and care for our patients, we also provide a lot of information and I would urge anyone who has symptoms to please come in for testing."

To celebrate the 'Healing Hearts' of the NSW Health service, blue and purple hearts, representing the colours of nursing and midwifery in the form of stickers, posters and postcards will be decorating St George Hospital.

Staff and the community are encouraged to post pictures of themselves wearing the stickers on social media, using the hashtags #everyperson and #exceptionalcare.

In the 2019/20 Budget the NSW Government committed \$2.8 billion to recruit a total of 8,300 frontline health staff over the next four years, including 5,000 nurses and midwives.