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Volunteers Celebrated at Prince of Wales Hospital

For the past 25 years John English of Eastlakes has walked the corridors of Prince of Wales Hospital bringing joy and the daily newspapers to thousands of patients.

The 82 year old is one of more than 200 volunteers at Prince of Wales Hospital who are being celebrated as part of NSW Health Volunteers' Appreciation Day in recognition of the many volunteers working across the NSW health system.

Volunteers at Prince of Wales were individually acknowledged and presented with 'Certificates of Appreciation' at a Morning Tea today thanking them for the support and dedication they provide throughout the year.

Mr English, who was presented with a medal for his 25 years of service, said he signed up to help others after retiring early due to arthritis.

"I wanted to be occupied and I have very much enjoyed my service especially in talking to people," he said.

Despite his failing eyesight, Mr English is still dedicated to helping people and will continue as long as he is able.

Veronica Langley was also commended for 27 years of volunteer work at Annabel House - a day centre offering respite for those caring for people with dementia.

Janice Ackling, Manager of Annabel House Dementia Day Centre, said her assistance has been greatly appreciated.

"We are ever grateful to Vonnie for her care, melodious singing, communication, ever smiling attitude, kindness, assistance and support," she said.

Volunteers at Prince of Wales Hospital provide support and companionship to patients, working as guides to assist hospital visitors, managing the Wig Library and assisting in the management and operations of the onsite volunteers Coffee Shop, book and gift stall.

Director of Operations, Jon Roberts acknowledged their invaluable support thanking them for their contributions of service and also fundraising for vital equipment.

"On behalf of the staff and patients and the broader community I thank you all," he said.

"Our volunteers are never short of a smile and a friendly face which is very important in the hospital environment."

If you, or someone you know, would like information about becoming a volunteer at Prince of Wales Hospital, please contact 9382 2119 or 9382 2675.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

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