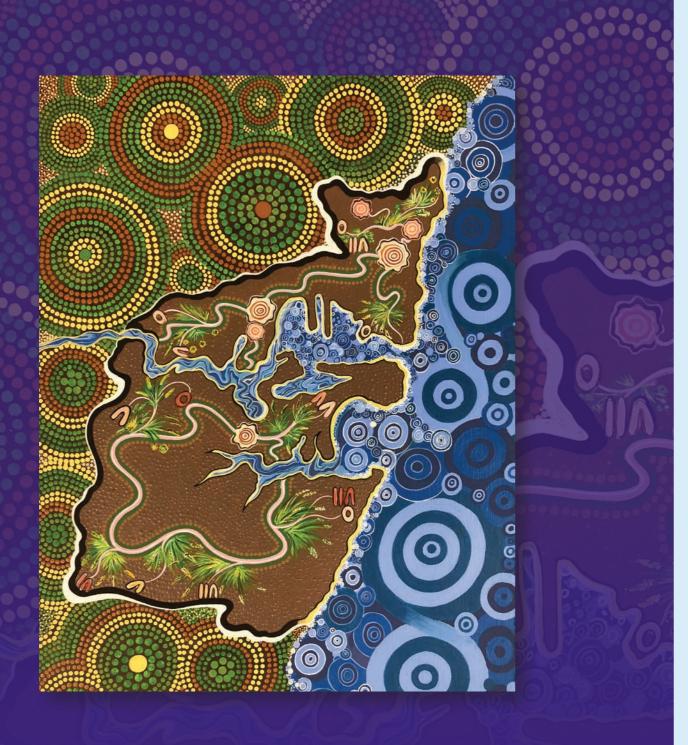
South Eastern Sydney Local Health District



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SESLHD Our Year In Review 2022-23



Acknowledgement of Country

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians on whose land we stand, and the lands our facilities are located on; the lands of the Dharawal, Gadigal, Wangal, Gweagal and Bidjigal peoples.

We would like to pay our respects to the Elders past, present and those of the future.

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Artwork by Brenden Broadbent

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A message from the Board Chair and Chief Executive



We are incredibly proud of the efforts of all of our people across South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) in 2022-23. Our people continue to strive to improve the high quality health care for the almost 1,000,000 residents of our District.

Our District has always taken a strong stand on pursuing efforts to Close the Gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community.

We continue to take steps to improve cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples accessing our services, while the return of the 8,000 year old hearth stones was an event of great cultural significance for our community.

Our redevelopment teams continue to do terrific work as our expansive new hospitals materialise from plan to reality. Congratulations go to staff at Prince of Wales Hospital, with the official opening of the new Acute Services Building.

Seven years in the making, the new section of the hospital has been designed with input from staff and consumers to ensure it meets the health needs of our growing community, now and into the future.

As well as forging ahead with new services and buildings, making sure everyone has access to excellent healthcare, no matter where they live, remained a bedrock of SESLHD strategy and activity.

This was highlighted at the NSW Health Awards where the NSW Telestroke Service, hosted at Prince of Wales Hospital, garnered two awards. The service provides people across the State with rapid virtual access to specialist stroke diagnosis and treatment. Our District prides itself on staying at the forefront of technology, evidenced in the pioneering work carried out by the surgical team at the Royal Hospital for Women, when they performed Australia's first uterus transplant.

Supporting our teams to thrive is also an ongoing priority. The Festival of Care was rolled out as part of our wellbeing program and involved a range of events such as live music, digital meditation and creative drawing, all aimed at giving staff opportunities to pursue wellness.

Recognising that as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, staff continue to experience high levels of workplace pressure and stress, the festival provided staff an opportunity to take a short break and discover something new.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael Still for leading the District Board over the past 10 years. Michael's dedication towards improving the health and wellbeing of our community is extremely commendable, and will be remembered for many years to come.

A heartfelt thank you to each and every member of the SESLHD community, for your tireless work and incredible achievements over the past year.

Dr Debra Graves OAM | Board Chair

Tobi Wilson | Chief Executive

SESLHD Board and Executive Team



Team

Executive

Dr Debra Graves Board Chair, (Appointed September 2023)

Michael Still Former Board Chair, (Term concluded August 2023)

Jonathan Doy Board Member

Elli Baker Board Member

Tobi Wilson Chief Executive

Kim Olesen Executive Director, Operations

Lisa Altman Director, Strategy, Innovation and Improvement

Ian Anderson Director of Finance

Jennie Barry General Manager, Prince of Wales Hospital and Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital

Sharon Carey General Manager, Corporate Services

Andrew Elliott Director, Digital Health

Fiona Fahey Director, People and Culture

Danielle Fisher General Manager, Organ and Tissue Donation Service

Dr Marianne Gale Director, Population and Community Health

Liam Harte Board Member

Dr Gregory Levenston Board Member Helene Orr

Board Member

Prof Allan Spigelman Board Member Dr Jan Dudley Board Member

Arthur Diakos Board Member

Dr John Estell Board Member

Anna Guillan Board Member

Donna Garland General Manager, Royal Hospital for Women

Kate Hackett Director, Nursing and Midwifery Services

Christopher Hay General Manager, Mental Health Services

Prof Georgina Hold Director, Research

Dr Jo Karnaghan Director, Clinical Governance and Medical Services

Angela Karooz General Manager, St George Hospital

Claire O'Connor Director, Allied Health

Skye Parsons Director, Aboriginal Health

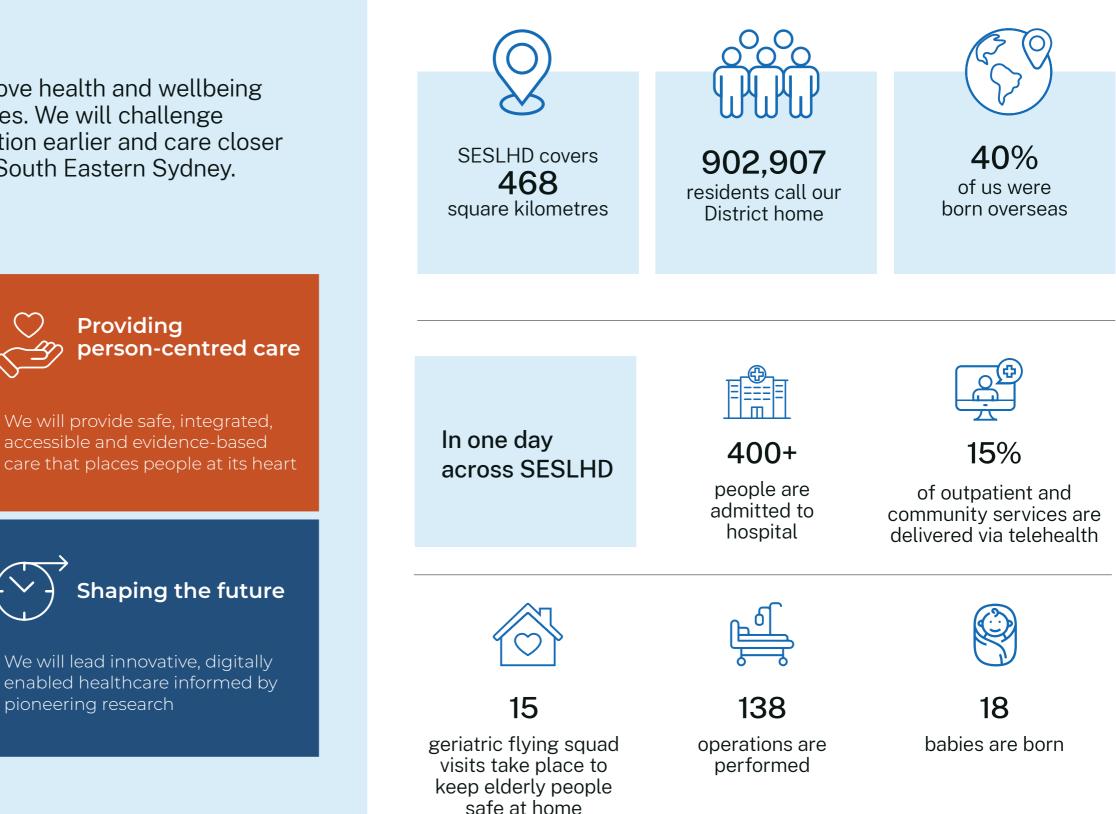
Vicki Weeden General Manager, Sutherland Hospital and Garrawarra Centre

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Our strategic priorities

We will work in partnership to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and transform experiences. We will challenge service delivery to provide intervention earlier and care closer to home for the 1 million people of South Eastern Sydney.





Supporting teams to thrive

Partnering for

communities

approach to promote health, improve

equity and empower communities

healthier

We will adopt a whole of system

We will promote a culture where people flourish and wellbeing is a priority



Shaping the future

We will lead innovative, digitally enabled healthcare informed by pioneering research

Providing



Celebrating 8,000 years of connection to Country

Keeping our community safe during Sydney World Pride



One of the most significant excavations in NSW Health history, the hearth stones are permanently displayed at the entrance to the new Acute Services Building as a symbol of welcome, healing and shared knowledge.

Evidence of fish oil was found on the stones, with a carbon date of up to 8,000 years old, evidence that Aboriginal people lived in this area hundreds of generations ago. Where the hospital stands today was once a landscape of enormous sand dunes, creeks and swamps.

The stones formed an ancient fireplace, also called a "hearth", that was used by Aboriginal people who lived in this landscape long ago. Staff celebrated, created awareness, and kept thousands of people safe and healthy during Sydney World Pride



Our Crown Street vaccination clinic was transformed into a temporary preventative health hub providing a range of free services such as STI and HIV tests.

Over 50 staff representing Kirketon Road Centre marched in a riot of noise and colour at the annual Mardi Gras parade. Armed with flags, banners and placards, they made their presence known with maracas made from repurposed needle disposal bins, filled with dried beans.



Mental Health Virtual Centre launch

Closing the gap in Indigenous eye care

Our Mental Health Service celebrated the launch of its new Mental Health Virtual Centre The new site brings together a number of diverse mental health services, providing consumers with different options for their care, including virtual clinical services, face to face and online recovery education, physical health group programs and after-hours suicide crisis support.

The new space was co-designed with consumers to ensure the unique perspectives of people with mental and suicidal crisis were included and that the needs of the community were met. In a significant step towards closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye care in NSW, Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital announced the establishment of the District's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Clinic

Celebrating our people

Elizabeth Browne

Meet Elizabeth Browne, Director of Operations, Shared Clinical Services, and Prince of Wales Hospital Redevelopment Executive Sponsor.

"I love that every day presents me with different challenges and opportunities, the impact that our work has on patient care and that I get to do this with a great bunch of people," Elizabeth said.

Elizabeth took home the Collaborative Staff Member of the Year Award at the 2023 SESLHD Core Awards.

"Receiving this award is an absolute privilege. It represents an enormous team effort that supported the commissioning and relocation of our services into the new Acute Services Building."

Intended as a hub for outreach, the clinic will provide in-person services as well as virtual care capabilities for eye patients in remote communities. The new clinic will not only reflect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language but will also feature a culturally safe respite area for patients.



Celebrating a century of care

First MRI facility at Sutherland Hospital

The Uniting War Memorial Hospital centenary was celebrated with a grand event attended by the Governor of NSW, and featured keynote speeches and live performances for staff and patients The milestone recognised the thousands of Australians who were born or cared for

contribution of staff and volunteers.

Celebrating over 100 years of the Uniting War Memorial Hospital

Celebrations also honoured the Vickery family's legacy, who bequeathed the land and buildings to the Methodist Church for use as a hospital post World War One, allowing the Uniting War Memorial Hospital to officially open its doors in 1922.

This historic site is significant, not only as a tribute to the past, but for the important services it still provides today and will continue to offer into the future. Sutherland Hospital's Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) service officially opened



This state-of-the-art facility was delivered as part of the hospital's Operating Theatre Complex redevelopment.

The milestone marks the first time Sutherland Hospital, which celebrated its 65th anniversary this year, has had its own dedicated MRI facility.

The service has enabled faster care for inpatients as fewer need to be transferred to St George Hospital or private providers for their scans.



Honouring our late patients

Patients benefit from palliative care refurbishments

St George Hospital's Intensive Care Unit staff know how precious life is and have introduced special practices to honour patients who have passed away The Pause is a voluntary, planned moment of silence held after the death of a patient and an Honour Walk is for patients who intend on becoming organ and tissue donors, as they make their way to the operating theatre.

The Pause enables a sense of closure and promotes self-care by allowing staff time for personal reflection to acknowledge and process a patient's death.

An Honour Walk provides donor families, as well as members of the care team, the opportunity to honour the intent and generosity of the decision of becoming an organ and tissue donor. It is a profound and powerful way to give thanks for a gift that will save and enhance the lives of many. Patients, families and carers at Calvary Healthcare Kogarah have benefited from a \$1.79m refurbishment to palliative care facilities



Belinda Hopkins

ESTA

Meet Belinda Hopkins, Social Worker at the St George Drug and Alcohol Service, and winner of the Core Values in Action Award at the 2023 SESLHD Core Awards.

"We work with a diverse population here at SESLHD and are lucky to have access to plenty of services and resources. I get to meet so many strong, funny, caring and resilient people, and love watching and supporting people to grow on their journeys," Belinda said.

"To be recognised for representing CORE values is very rewarding, and seems very fitting, as my personal values are what drove me to study social work."

Rooms were enlarged and clinical environments were transformed with new carpet, paint, wood trim and imagery.

The improvements give families the opportunity to stay with their loved ones in a more spacious and welcoming environment during end-of-life care, helping to bring some comfort to patients and their families during what is a very difficult time.



The Festival of Care

Outstanding staff recognised

The sweet sound of violins filled the corridors while guitar melodies entertained crowds in the grounds as the Festival of Care kicked off in our District The festival was an initiative designed to bring entertainment, joy and a sense of calm to our hospitals, and an opportunity for staff to take a short break away from their regular activities and discover something new.

The festival was developed in response to requests put forward in the 2022 SESLHD Wellbeing Grants, where we saw a strong desire for art-based wellbeing interventions.

The program included a wide range of daily events, including live music, virtual reality activities, crafts with First Nation weavers, digital meditation and creative drawing. Staff members from Garrawarra Centre were acknowledged for their outstanding work at the 2022 International Enhancing Practice Conference



Of note, Cathy Wynn, Nurse Manager in the Staff Education and Clinical Practice Unit, received one of three People's Choice Awards for her presentation: '*This is me*', which introduced a tool to help staff manage aggressive and distressed patients.



First overseas recruits touch down in Sydney

Leading with Impact Program



Fifty-six successful candidates were chosen to relocate to Australia with their families to start working across our hospitals and Mental Health Directorate as part of a new, targeted international recruitment campaign

The nurses are highly skilled, bringing wealth of experience and diverse kills from all over the world.

An 'Aussie shop' welcome pack, filled with iconic Australian groceries such as TimTams and Vegemite, was provided to our new recruits.

More broadly, each family was provided with an enormous amount of support to make their transition as smooth as possible, such as assistance with schooling, rental applications and Medicare. SESLHD is committed to fostering the growth and development of our current and emerging leaders Celebrating our people

Ibrahim Hamad

Meet Ibrahim Hamad, Lead Pharmacist in SESLHD's Priority Projects Unit, and winner of the Emerging Leader Award at the 2023 SESLHD CORE Awards.

"Our District is like one big family. From the old and wise, to the young and eager, it's great to be part of a team always ready to roll up their sleeves and lend a hand," Ibrahim said.

"Receiving the Emerging Leader Award is very humbling. It's a testament to the awesome team I get to work with and learn from every day and is a great reflection of the support and team culture here at SESLHD."

Our Leading with Impact Program is aimed at individuals who have the potential to progress into senior leadership or executive roles.

The program equips staff with the skills and knowledge to lead collaboratively and innovatively to impact positive health outcomes across our District.





First patients arrive in Acute Services Building

Prince of Wales Hospital's Acute **Services Building** opened its doors to the public after more than seven years of design consultation, construction, planning and commissioning

The Acute Services Building will enhance the patient experience through new and improved technology, intuitive wayfinding and bright, open spaces.

Joy, 47 from South Coogee, was the first patient to arrive in the new building. Joy had been in the Respiratory and Infectious Diseases Ward for a number of weeks and said her new room, with its view of the city, was "a world away" from the old ward.

"My room was gorgeous. Everything was so new with all the latest in technology and the décor was lovely," Joy said.

Staff from each moving service bid farewell to their old wards and celebrated their brand-new space with a ribbon cutting.

Researchers at the Royal Hospital for Women made a major breakthrough in the future diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis

In a world first, the team has successfully grown tissue from all known types of endometriosis in a laboratory, allowing researchers to observe cell changes and compare how different tissue responds to different treatments.

The results will indicate how to effectively treat each variation of endometriosis.



Australia's first uterus transplant

Launch of Clinical Skills Centre

The first woman to receive a uterus transplant in Australia has fallen pregnant just three months after undergoing the procedure in a major milestone for pioneering Sydney research, giving hope to women previously told they were unable to bear children

Kirsty Bryant, from Coffs Harbour, is due to give birth to her second child before Christmas, less than a year after receiving her 54-year-old mother's uterus in a marathon 16-hour surgery at the Royal Hospital for Women in January.

Kirsty had an emergency hysterectomy in 2021 after suffering a major haemorrhage following the birth of her first child.

"To be given the chance of being able to carry another baby is a dream come true" Kirsty said. Staff at St George Hospital came together to mark the grand opening of the hospital's new Clinical Skills Centre Celebrating our people

SESLHD Oral Health Team

Meet our Oral Health team. This team took home the Excellence in Aboriginal Healthcare Award at the 2023 SESLHD Core Awards and were finalists in the NSW Premiers Awards.

Since 2014, the team have implemented an Aboriginal oral health recruitment strategy whereby trainees are employed for a period of twelve months and supported to complete formal qualifications in dental assisting or administration.

A heartfelt congratulations to this dedicated bunch!

This dynamic new space is equipped with state-of-the-art technology to expand the range of education and training opportunities available to staff.

Exciting features such as a podcast recording studio and upgraded audio-visual equipment provide an environment where excellence and innovation continue to thrive.

Thank you to our unsung heroes

Meet St George Hospital's Acute Transition team. These remarkable staff took home the Integrated Value Based Care Award at the 2023 SESLHD Core Awards.

St George Hospital is among the leading centres for trauma and emergency management in the State, so it is only fitting this team was recognised for their work in discharging high

Thank you for your invaluable contribution!

Meet Dr Vicky Sheppeard, SESLHD's Public Health Director.

"I came to SESLHD in January 2020 following seven years in the Ministry of Health. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, SESLHD has been a wonderful place to work, with a highly skilled and dedicated team in the public health unit and excellent

A wonderful milestone this year was the gradual return of our volunteers after a brief hiatus resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our volunteers make an enormous contribution, without fanfare, and are an important part of all that we do to care for our patients and run our hospitals well.

Praise must also go to our hospital foundations, for their invaluable contributions to the District; raising funds for services, equipment and research, as well as orchestrating many goodwill gestures.

Celebrating our people

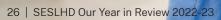
St George Hospital's Acute Transition team



Celebrating our people

Dr Vicky Sheppeard

"It's an absolute honour to be recognised for managing crucial changes in public health policy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic," Dr Sheppeard said.





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South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

