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**EMBARGOED: 7.00am Wednesday, 12 October 2011**

## **SYDNEY HOSPITAL – AUSTRALIA’S FIRST HOSPITAL CELEBRATING 200 YEARS**

**Australia’s first Hospital, Sydney Hospital, located on Macquarie Street Sydney will celebrate its bicentenary in October 2011.**

**In celebrating the occasion, all former staff, patients, friends, volunteers and supporters of the Hospital are invited to visit and take part in a community day and historical exhibition which will see the Hospital open to the public.**

Sydney Hospital dates back to the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 where it began as a tent hospital and has been on its present site in Sydney’s historic Macquarie Street since 1811.

Chair of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Morris Iemma says Sydney Hospital has been pivotal in the development of major medical breakthroughs which are now seen across our entire health system.

“Sydney Hospital was the first to use an x-ray, the first to administer a general anaesthetic, the first to use radiotherapy treatment and the first to carry out a blood transfusion.

“The Hospital has been the frontier for many of the lifesaving procedures we see in our Hospitals every day.

“The Hospital has attracted medical, nursing, allied health and research professionals that have been the instigators of extraordinary clinical improvements. These staff have developed life saving techniques, lengthened prognosis and vastly improved quality of life for patients,” Mr Iemma said.

Sydney Hospital is also home to the first nursing school in Australia founded by Lucy Osburn, Sydney Hospital has continued a strong tradition of nursing.

More recently, Sydney Hospital has become a centre for excellence in the clinical areas of eye, hand and sexual health as well specialist alcohol and other drug treatment services. The Hospital now provides specialist treatment through the Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney Hospital Hand Clinic, Sydney Sexual Health Centre and the Kirketon Road Centre.

“Sydney Hospital provides healthcare for its local community, state-wide tertiary services as well as patients interstate. The Hospital has an impressive list of world-firsts and has paved the way in many clinical areas including transplantation, coronary care and medical teaching,” Mr Iemma said.

In celebrating the Bicentenary, all former staff, patient’s, friends, volunteers and supporters of the Hospital are invited to visit and take part in a community day and historical exhibition which will see the Hospital open to the public.

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**South Eastern Sydney Local Health District  
Media contact: Poppy Diamantis 02 9382 8398 or 0411 730 842**

The **Community Open Day** will include live entertainment, special guests, historical tours, stories from the past, food stalls and a detailed historical exhibition showcasing the tremendous role the Hospital plays in our State's history.

**When: Saturday, 29 October**

**Time: 10.00am to 2:30pm**

**Where: Sydney Hospital, 8 Macquarie Street, Sydney.**

The **exhibition, *Sydney Hospital: celebrating 200 years of care*** will run until Friday, 2 December and will be open to the public

For more information on Sydney Hospital's Bicentenary and events, visit:

[www.sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au/sydhosp](http://www.sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au/sydhosp) or contact: (02) 9382 7544.