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ST GEORGE HOSPITAL NEUROLOGIST RECEIVES AWARD FOR HEALTH LEADERSHIP

Treating patients with diseases of the nervous system such as stroke, muscle disease, epilepsy, and Multiple Sclerosis has earned Dr Louise Allport the St George Hospital Outstanding Leadership award.

Dr Allport won the award at the annual St George Hospital Excellence Awards held in late 2017.

Since her appointment as the Director of Stroke Services in 2007 and subsequently Head of the Neurology Department in 2017, Dr Allport has transformed one of the busiest stroke units in NSW into a client-focussed service with a culture of innovation and excellence. The Stroke Service covers the St George district and Sutherland Shire.

In the past year alone more than 700 Stroke and Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) patients were admitted to St George Hospital.

Dr Allport is passionate about getting the best results for patients following a stroke. One of her greatest achievements has been the introduction of an active thrombolysis service which she set up in 2007 as part of the existing stroke service.

"We provide a clot-busting therapy called thrombolysis that helps re-establish blood flow saving parts of the brain that have been put at risk of irreversible injury," Dr Allport said.

"Thrombolysis is suitable for only some stroke patients, and needs to be used within a four and a half hour timeframe. In the past year alone we have been able to treat 50 patients with this drug."

The Stroke Service at St George Hospital consists of a multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals including speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, dieticians and social workers who work together to achieve the best outcomes for patients.

The Service has recently added the expertise of two neurologists specialising in disorders of inflammation of the nervous system such as Multiple Sclerosis and the vestibular system (hearing and balance) which is unique to the local area.

Of winning her award, Dr Allport said: "It was a wonderful surprise to win this award amongst the high calibre of nominees reflecting the culture here at St George Hospital. We are passionate about serving our community and sub-speciality groups."

<u>Background information</u>:

Dr Allport commenced her internship at St George Hospital in 1996, where she later undertook her physician training. She started her neurology training at St George Hospital which she completed at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Dr Allport studied for her PhD in brain imaging modalities and the effect of high glucose levels on the brain in stroke at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and University of Melbourne before returning to St George Hospital in 2007.