Media Release

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INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY – NURSES CELEBRATED ACROSS SYDNEY'S EASTERN SUBURBS

Annual celebrations are being held in honour of nurses at Prince of Wales Hospital, Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney Children's Hospital and War Memorial Hospital, as part of International Nurses Day (Sunday 12 May).

Over 2300 nurses work across the Randwick Hospitals Campus (Campus) - which includes Prince of Wales Hospital, Royal Hospital for Women and Sydney Children's Hospital - and War Memorial Hospital (WMH) in Waverley, caring for patients whose ages range from newborns to the elderly.

This year, the Campus and WMH aim to employ 117 transition nurses and midwives. Of these, 76 nurses have positions at Prince of Wales Hospital, 9 new graduate nurses and 2 new graduate midwives at the Royal Hospital for Women, 28 at Sydney Children's Hospital and 2 at War Memorial Hospital.

Kim Olesen, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) Director of Nursing and Midwifery said nurses are fundamental to the successful daily function of hospitals and play a crucial role in providing quality healthcare to our community.

"The Randwick Hospitals Campus and War Memorial Hospital are world class teaching facilities, staffed by nurses whose skills are second to none," Ms Olesen said.

"I am honoured to have such an amazing and inspiring team of nurses.

"Without their skills, expert care, compassion and tireless dedication, patients would not receive the round the clock care they deserve."

Heather Walker, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, Prince of Wales Hospital said International Nurses Day is a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate the significant contribution nurses make to health care.

"It's a chance to formally thank them for their individual contribution in delivering safe, quality and compassionate care to their patients twenty four hours per day,'' Ms Walker said.

"To all nurses at Prince of Wales Hospital and within the community, our thanks to each and every one of you and enjoy the celebrations.''

Phyllis Moran, Director of Nursing, Sydney Children's Hospital said the Hospital's incredible nurses are committed to caring for some of the State's sickest children.

"Without the skills, expert care, compassion and tireless dedication of our nurses, patients would not receive the round the clock care they deserve," she said.

International Nurses Day is celebrated on 12 May each year to mark the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, who is widely considered the founder of modern nursing.

The day is celebrated around the world to remember the valuable contributions nurses make to society, with the 2013 theme for International Nurses Day - 'Closing the gap: the millennium development goals'.

Celebrations across the Campus and WMH will include morning and afternoon teas, barbeques, breakfasts for night duty staff, and annual nurse of the year awards.

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