

28 March, 2014

Sutherland Hospital opens new Children's Acute Review Service

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District is committed to providing quality healthcare services to the community, including access to vital paediatric services for sick children.

Sutherland Hospital has established a new Children's Acute Review Service (CARS).

Lorena Matthews, Nursing Co-Director, Women's and Children's Health, Sutherland and St George Hospitals, said the service is available for children in the Sutherland Shire who require a specialist paediatric medical consultation in the acute stage of an illness; or as a follow-up review in the recovery period.

"General Practitioners treat many children with a variety of illnesses. However, if a child requires a specialist paediatric consultation for treatment, or a second opinion for non-emergency type patients, CARS is designed to facilitate this process," Ms Matthews said.

Children who are requiring more than a GP visit and who are not sick enough to warrant hospital admission may be referred from General Practitioners, Emergency Department, and Child and Family Health Centres.

"CARS anticipates that by working in partnership with paediatric tertiary hospitals and providing families with paediatric services close to home, it will assist in reducing acute paediatric bed congestion at our Children's Health Network facilities.

"The Children's Acute Review Service will provide a vital link between community and hospital based paediatric health care. The service is staffed by expert health professionals including staff specialist paediatricians, paediatric registrars, a clinical nurse consultant and an administration officer," Ms Matthews said.

Located within the Child and Adolescent Unit CARS operates Monday, Thursday and Friday 11am to 3pm by appointment.

Referrals are made by phone discussion to the clinical nurse consultant (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm) or the paediatric registrar/consultant via the hospital switchboard at all other times.

"Any child who requires immediate medical or emergency assessment should still be referred to the Sutherland Hospital Emergency Department," Ms Matthews said.

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