



## The future of nursing and midwifery arrives



Meet our Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospitals nurses and midwives (left to right) Rebecca Bulloch, Anyela Arispe, Samuel Turner, Rebecca Frey and Christina Spiteri. FULL STORY AND MORE PICS: Page 2.



Associate Professor Naren Gunja accepts a new role and challenge: P3.



Students create mural for Mount Druitt Hospital with powerful message: P4.



Look who's breaking down barriers in remote communities: P5.

# Nursing's Gen Y launch their careers

Nearly 115 nursing and midwifery graduates have launched their careers at hospitals and community health centres across WSLHD.

More than 60 graduates have joined the ranks of Westmead Hospital, including 46 new nurses and 15 midwives.

Another 20 new nurses and three midwives have taken up positions at Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals, with a further 40 nurses to start in March and May.

Eleven nurses have joined the staff at Auburn Hospital while a further 20 nurses have started working in community health, mental health and drug and alcohol health.

WSLHD executive director of nursing, midwifery and clinical governance Joanne Edwards said the graduates would work in a range of clinical settings.

"They include acute hospital wards, mental health units, aged care facilities, community, paediatrics, emergency and operating theatres," she said.

"We could not function without these vital staff, who provide round-the-clock care and support to our patients in hospital, at home, or in the community.

"They are at the forefront of patient care, providing assistance throughout the patient's journey.

"I commend each one of our nursing and midwifery graduates for completing their studies and wish them well."

The graduates will attend orientation sessions across the various hospitals in the coming weeks.

Welcome aboard everyone!



Welcome to Westmead hospital Joseph Mapour, Amy Bradshaw, Kirsten Waygood and Tori Bellbowen.



Welcome our new nurses and midwives to Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals.

## New ministers visit Westmead



Staff at Westmead Hospital had the pleasure of meeting our new Health Minister, Brad Hazzard (second from right) and Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women and Minister for Ageing, Tanya Davies (fourth from left) . Both ministers toured our hospital and said hello to our staff and management.

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<http://www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au/services/award/multicultural-health-communication-awards>

## From the Chief Executive

# People are the soul of WSLHD

In July 2016, Western Sydney Local Health District formed the People and Culture Directorate uniting all our employee-related functions.

People and Culture recognises that our people are the heart and soul of our organisation, and are committed to supporting WSLHD staff to work with confidence, care and compassion.

People and Culture have a two-phase strategy:

- To strengthen foundations (our systems and infrastructure) so that staff are supported and well equipped to be high performing, now and into the future, and to strengthen our ability to change and transform.
- To strengthen our ability to change and transform through building our leadership capacity and business management capability.

In response to what staff have told us, People and Culture put a strong focus on improving recruitment.



WSLHD Recruitment team leader Erin Welsh, Chief Executive Danny O'Connor and People and Culture acting director Helen Emmerson.

You may have seen the nine "quick-win" recruitment process improvements released in January.

These aim to reduce time to fill and enhance hiring manager and candidate experience. Feedback has already been received that hiring managers can "feel the difference".

We are also advancing Leadership and

Manager Development programs, alongside an integrated Wellbeing Program, and a Respectful Workplace Culture Program.

We look forward to continued enhancements to make it easier for staff to lead and manage.

*Danny O'Connor*  
Chief Executive

## Prof Naren Gunja steps into new role

WSLHD congratulates and is pleased to announce that Associate Professor Naren Gunja has been appointed to the role of chief medical information officer (CMIO).

Naren is a senior staff specialist in Emergency Medicine and Toxicology for the district.

He started his internship at Westmead Hospital in 1998 and is now a Clinical Associate Professor at the Sydney Medical School and the Clinical Lead for the eMEDs project at Blacktown Hospital.

He is also the Chair of the recently established WSLHD Health Informatics Advisory Group. Naren will play a key role the challenges ahead including:

- Getting the right clinical IT systems and infrastructure into our hospitals
- Improving the user experience of health technology
- Promoting and developing a clinical informatics workforce at WSLHD
- Getting the right clinical analytics tools to improve patient care
- Engage clinicians in all disciplines to improve uptake of health IT and use it better/safer/wiser

- Drive education and training of clinicians on using the eMR as a tool for better patient outcomes
- Provide advice to the Chief Information Officer, ITS and WSLHD Executive so that we drive innovation and service improvement through health technology

The CMIO appointment is an important milestone for WSLHD and will greatly enhance the engagement with clinical staff and bring much needed expertise to Information Technology Services in WSLHD.

"We are at the forefront of technology by getting the clinicians involved in IT and the software they use - traditionally clinicians do their thing and IT develops the software they use," he said.

"Now there is a shift in the way things are done. Clinicians are involved in the design and building the systems they will be using in a more orientated manner, which will assist in their workflow and the way they assess and manage patients.

"This is an exciting digital transformation in western Sydney - it's innovative and at the right time with the redevelopments. We are building a new hospital from scratch and now the technology to match!"



WSLHD chief medical information officer Associate Professor Naren Gunja.

# Students create masterpiece for Mount Druitt Hospital



Chifley College students Aamie Wallace and Aiesha Petit-Young at Mount Druitt Hospital.

Aboriginal students from Mount Druitt's Chifley College in collaboration with WSLHD and Triple A (Adolescent Asthma Action) program unveiled an Aboriginal mural, entitled *Smoking is not our Culture*, at Mount Druitt Hospital recently, as part of the schools' Walking into Good Health project.

The concept was inspired by the students' and the school's Aboriginal education officers desire to encourage people to butt-out, and to communicate the dangers of smoking to the

Aboriginal community.

The eye-catching mural will be permanently on display at Mount Druitt Hospital.

The design features a profile of the human body with emphasis on the lungs with the message "Don't let your future go up in smoke".

WSLHD Primary Health Care Education and Research Unit (PERU) director and Triple A

Asthma school program founder Associate Professor Smita Shah said the students were passionate about the project.

"The hospital is the ideal location because that is where most of their friends and family members go if they need medical care," she said.

"The Triple A Asthma school program is a free, internationally acclaimed peer education program that improves asthma self-management and smoking resilience in young people."

Chifley College principal Janet Harding said the students wanted to contribute to the health and wellbeing of their community.

"This program is the work of our students who are doing this to promote the important message about the dangers of smoking throughout the school community and beyond," she said.

For more information on the Triple A Asthma school program, contact the WSLHD Primary Health Care Education and Research Unit on 9845 6505 or visit: <https://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/>



Hitachi Construction reps Joanne Coulson and Shane Powick, 4 year-old patient Sereena Kaur with Auburn's emergency department nurse Helen Zaouk.

## Local construction workers care for kids

Representatives from Hitachi Construction Machinery visited Auburn Hospital recently to see the equipment they had donated to help sick children.

The equipment, valued at more than \$7000, included a paediatric colour-coded resuscitation trolley and a humidifier, and was the result of a collaboration between Hitachi and the Humpty Dumpty Foundation.

Auburn Hospital's deputy director of nursing and midwifery Hillary Nowlan thanked both organisations for their generosity and said the equipment had been put to good use in the

emergency department and operating suite.

"Both pieces of equipment are specifically designed for babies and younger children," she said.

"The humidifier provides oxygen support for babies and toddlers who suffer from respiratory problems, while the colour-coded resuscitation trolley allows staff quicker access to the correct selection of equipment in an emergency.

"We are really thankful for the generous support from the community and the Humpty Dumpty Foundation."

## Spread the LHD news

*The Pulse is published fortnightly!*

It's a tool to promote or share your project, celebration, initiative, success or event.

This publication is distributed to more than 10,000 staff in Western Sydney Local Health District and our many stakeholders.

To submit your story for consideration, we require high-resolution photos with captions and at least 150 words describing the story.

For further enquiries, phone 8890 4564 or email

[wslhd-corporatecomms@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wslhd-corporatecomms@health.nsw.gov.au)

Publication is at the discretion of the editor and chief executive.

Items may be edited for length, style and quality.

### February 2017 second edition

Graphic design and editorial co-ordinator: Jenny Harrison, WSLHD Corporate Communications specialist.

Sub-editor: Anne Markey, WSLHD Communication Integration specialist.

# "An outback experience changed my life"

*Written by Gurdev Singh, WSLHD Corporate Legal Counsel who spent five years working in the Aboriginal Legal Service in one of the remote areas in Australia.*

"I stood at the edge of the Great Sandy Desert and looked at the stark barren landscape that stretched as far as the eye could see. Behind me was the remote Aboriginal community that I was visiting.

The environment around me brought to focus the problem of access faced by the Aboriginal population to the Australian legal system.

Most live in remote parts of the country and are unable to access and afford legal services.

The establishment of community-based organisations help alleviate the problems and the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) are leaders in the pathway to narrow the gap.

I joined the ALS in February 1990 and worked there as a senior solicitor until 1995.

I had worked in private practice in Perth and had my fill of timesheets and chasing the dollar. I was looking for a new challenge and landed a position at ALS.

I was not prepared for the difficult challenges that came my way. The first three months involved me acting as the duty solicitor at the Children's Court.

To my surprise, and then dismay, there was a trend for the same juvenile appearing as a repeat offender.

On consultation with them, it gave an insight into a broken-down family environment fuelled with alcohol, drugs and violence.

I was later transferred to the civil unit and acted in numerous compensation matters.

I gained a greater understanding of the life of an Aboriginal person.

I began to understand their customs, beliefs and behaviour patterns.

I learned early that when an Aboriginal person talks with you, he or she does not look at you straight in the eye.

They look downwards, and this has often been misinterpreted as an expression of guilt by investigating officers in criminal matters.

I frequently travelled to the Kimberley's where permission was needed to visit these sites. I was accompanied by an Aboriginal field worker.

I met some Elders who shared tales of folklore, customs, beliefs and history of the remote communities.

I was informed there was a tribe in WA called Singh, which evolved from a person of Sikh origin, who came to Australia and met an



Western Sydney Local Health District's Corporate Legal Counsel Gurdev Singh.

Aboriginal woman - their alliance led to the Singh tribe.

This interested me as my surname is also Singh. My five years working with the ALS has broadened my horizons. It has created greater empathy and understanding of the difficulties of access to the law by our disadvantaged sections of the population.

A large number of our Aboriginal population still reside in remote Australia.

There is a need for more legal services, increased budget allocated and more focus on narrowing this widening gap."

# "Vein finders" help our smallest patients

Blacktown Hospital's Pink Ladies have generously donated two diaphanoscopes, or "vein finders", to the hospital's Newborn Care Unit.

These vital pieces of equipment, valued at \$4620, highlight the veins like a night light allowing the nursing staff to easily identify babies veins to canulate or require further investigation.

The Pink Ladies are all volunteers and funds have been raised via various fundraising activities.

Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals fundraising and events manager Sonia Hollands said this is just one example of the good work the volunteers do by raising money for the hospital.

"The Pink Ladies work hard all-year around by selling raffle tickets and the lollie trolley - with all funds going straight back into the hospital for medical equipment," she said.



Blacktown Hospital's Newborn Care nurse unit manager Therese Freeman thanks the Pink Ladies for their life-saving donation.

## Auburn Hospital receives life-saving technology



Auburn Hospital's Dr Gregory White and NET's director Dr Andrew Berry.

Life-saving paediatric healthcare has taken a step into the future with the installation of Vision for Life technology at Auburn Hospital.

Vision for Life is state-of-the-art telemedicine equipment that connects hospital staff with paediatric specialists at the NETS centre, ensuring all patients have access to the best healthcare - no matter where they live.

Auburn Hospital is the latest NSW hospital to receive the technology, which has been completely funded by donors to Variety – the Children's Charity, the Baxter Family Foundation, Pat Cole's Autobody and Christine Wonacott.

The equipment is now located in the hospital's emergency department and special care nursery.

Using the Vision for Life technology, specialists at NETS are able to visually diagnose a child, ensuring they receive the correct diagnosis and immediate life-saving treatment.

Access to this equipment will help save the lives of children, cut down on misdiagnosis and unnecessary use of expensive aeromedical transport.

Auburn Hospital general manager Andrew Newton thanked the donors and Variety – the Children's Charity for their generous donation.

"This equipment will greatly enhance care at Auburn Hospital, particularly for our smallest patients," he said. "The machines will enable our hospital staff to have instant access to paediatric specialists, which can be critical when treating children in an emergency situation."

For more information about Vision for Life, go to [visionforlife.org.au](http://visionforlife.org.au)

## Aussie companies to grow health facilities at Blacktown Hospital



Health Infrastructure project director Andrew Paris, BMDH transition manager Robyn Campbell, Taylor construction manager Peter Wilson, and Blacktown Hospital general manager Sue-Anne Redmond.

Blacktown Hospital is set to become one of NSW's largest hospitals after the award of tenders to construct a major new hospital building and additional parking on the western Sydney site.

Two Australian companies will construct the new facilities, improving amenities and access to clinical services for the local community, and expanding the facility to become a major tertiary hospital for western Sydney.

The new acute services building includes:

- Emergency department with increases in emergency and short stay beds and a psychiatric emergency care service
- Intensive care unit with additional capacity
- Eight new operating theatres and space for future expansion
- New purpose-built wards for expanded birthing (with a wellness model of care), maternity, women's health, and newborn care
- New paediatric service with dedicated emergency department facilities, day stay and inpatient facilities
- Medical imaging, sterilising and non-clinical support services expansion.

AW Edwards was awarded the tender to construct the new acute services building at Blacktown Hospital, which is scheduled to open in 2019.

The car park extension will open in 2017 and will be delivered by Taylor Constructions.

Further car park expansion will deliver another 422 spaces for a total of more than 1,000 parking spaces on site.

For more information, visit <http://www.bmdhproject.health.nsw.gov.au/>

## eMEDS is coming to Western Sydney Health



eMEDS is going live this month at Blacktown Hospital.

But what is it?

eMEDS is an electronic medication management system. It allows staff to view medication charts across the organisation, improving efficiency, accuracy and patient safety.

The new system will replace six major paper charts currently in use:

- NIMC (National Inpatient Medication Chart) - used for prescribing medication and recording medication administration tasks
- NIMC (long-stay)
- PNIMC (Paediatric National Inpatient Medication Chart)
- MMP (Medication Management Plan) - used for recording medication history, medication reconciliation and changes to inpatient medication lists
- Adult Subcutaneous Insulin Prescribing Chart
- Analgesic Transdermal Patch Application Form

eMEDS will be rolled out across WSLHD over the coming months.

How do I find out more?

WSLHD's Corporate Communications team has put together a video, aimed at teaching staff more about eMEDS and how it will be used across our hospitals.

Watch the video via the link below: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=autb-RO\\_PMQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=autb-RO_PMQ)

For more information, contact Naren Gunja at [naren.gunja@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:naren.gunja@health.nsw.gov.au)

# Stanford University boosts our educators

Medical and nursing educators from WSLHD, Sydney Children's Hospital and the University of Sydney attended a Stanford University four-day program for clinical educators.

WSLHD medical education manager Tanya Jolly said the program was designed to recognise and support health educators and provide them with skills to enhance their teaching in the lecture room and at the bedside.

"We are privileged to have representatives from Stanford design this specially tailored program for WSLHD," she said.

The WSLHD Stanford Program for Clinical Educators will run from Thursday 30 November until Tuesday 5 December 2017 (excluding weekend). Further enquires or to express your interest in attending the program, WSLHD Medical and Corporate Education manager Tanya Jolly at [tanya.jolly@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tanya.jolly@health.nsw.gov.au) or 8890 4536.



Stanford University educators tailor medical education program for WSLHD staff.

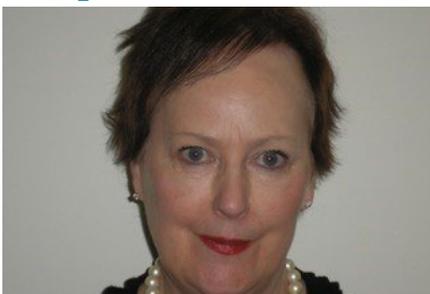
## What you need to know about media and privacy

New staff and existing staff who'd like to refresh their understanding of their media and privacy obligations at WSLHD, are encouraged to watch a new video from Corporate Communications.

The video will provide an introductory overview of what staff need to know. The video can be downloaded from the Corporate Communications intranet site at: <http://wslhdintranet.wsahs.nsw.gov.au/Corporate-Communications/corporate-communications-policies-and-guidelines>

Please email us at [WSLHD-CorporateComms@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:WSLHD-CorporateComms@health.nsw.gov.au) for more information or to learn more about the relevant policies.

## Ever wonder what a consumer rep does?



Meet Mrs Judith Lababedi, WSLHD Consumer Representative, carer and retired Blacktown hospital nurse.

Judith has been a consumer rep since mid-2014 involved in the Blacktown Hospital Expansion Project.

She has lived in Blacktown since the 1970's and is a passionate advocate for person-centred care.

As a retired clinical nurse consultant she sees the challenges facing staff inside the health system and works with staff to bring a person centred perspective to discussions inside the teams in which she works.

One of those teams is the *Safe Use of Medications Committee*.

"It's making me realise just how much work, time and effort is put into ensuring medication safety within the hospitals and our District" Judith said.

"I understand the difficulties that staff have, workloads, pressures, but I also understand how it is to be a carer and what it's like for a patient and I can identify the things that go wrong and the simple things that could be done to make that person's experience okay.

"Nothing complicated, nothing that costs money, just simple things that health professionals could do to make a patient's experience better."

To view the full story, visit: [goo.gl/n2LRui](http://goo.gl/n2LRui)

## Ask a consumer a question

Dear Consumer Cris,  
I work for WSLHD and know we are supposed to be working with consumer representatives. The thing is, I don't know how to do this - we have never had consumer reps on our committee. I feel like I know what to do as a nurse, but to engage consumers? Help please! **Jenny, Blacktown hospital**

Dear Jenny,  
Thanks for writing to me. I am a WSLHD consumer representative - I think we all want the same thing really - to create person-centred care. I understand that you are highly qualified to provide healthcare but "engaging with consumers" is a new concept! Well, it's not too hard. To get going visit: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSLHD\\_Staff](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSLHD_Staff) and tell the Community and Consumer Partnerships team what you want. Coralie and Tara will help you take your first steps. Hope this is helpful!  
**Cris, Consumer Representative**  
If you want to ask Consumer Cris a question, please write to the editor

## A birds-eye view of Blacktown



SKYview has captured some new aerial video of Blacktown Hospital – now on Facebook and YouTube.

You can like it on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bmdhproject>

You can link to the video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49MDIdSJp5U&feature=youtu.be>

For further information about the Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospitals Expansion Project: <http://www.bmdhproject.health.nsw.gov.au/>

## Popular posts

The WSLHD Facebook page has reached 8,991 likes!

This post reached more than 15,236 people with 358 likes:

HUMANS OF THE HOSPITAL | “Sometimes it’s hard to think of the right words to say thank you. During February my mum, travelling as a passenger, was involved in a terrible multi-vehicle car crash at Blaxland.

The world stopped for me when I received a phone call to learn my mum is at an operating theatre at Westmead Hospital, and not in the Blue Mountains as she planned that day.

At 12am the next morning, I received another call explaining in more detail what happened to her.

She went through a series of operations and this letter is to thank all the staff at Westmead Hospital who looked after my mum. I met some extraordinary people who do extraordinary things with extraordinary love.

To read the story in full, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/WesternSydneyHealth/>

## Transition to Professional Practice for Blacktown and Mount Druitt staff



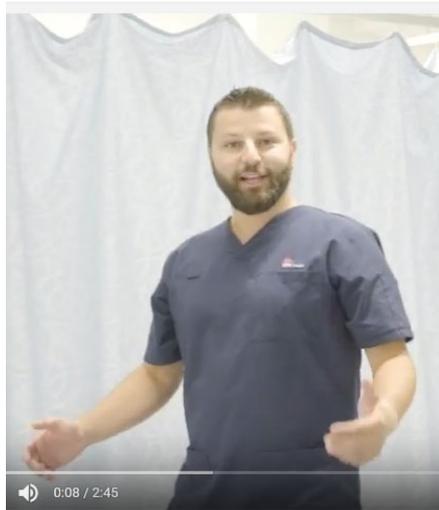
Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals nurses and midwives are awarded for completing the TPP program.

Congratulations to Blacktown and Mount Druitt nurses and midwives who receives their certificates for completing the 12 month Transition to Professional Practice (TPP) program.

The program supports staff and navigates them through the first year of employment as a registered nurse. WSLHD conducts this program in two clinical placement blocks, each being six months in duration. Participants are supported with access to targeted educational plans as well as access to clinical supervision which allows them to reflect and build on their experiences from a safe educational and learning perspective.

Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospitals director of nursing David Simmonds wished them all the best as they continue their journey as registered nurses and midwives in delivering optimal care to our patients and families.

## YouTube



The Corporate Communications multimedia team produced a video notifying staff of the roll-out of eMEDs at Blacktown Hospital on 28 February.

eMEDs is Electronic Medication Management for doctors, nurses and pharmacy staff.

Check out the video by visiting: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=autb-RO\\_PMQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=autb-RO_PMQ)

## Sweet Tweets

With Sia Anthopoulos

It’s been a great couple of weeks on social media for WSLHD.

Read on to see what our lovely followers have been tweeting about us:



**MB @mirrorprobe** Westmead hospital really opens my senses..... loving it here....#usyd



**Helen Williams @ScienceHelen** Westmead Hospital is running a “rethink your drink” trial soon to reduce sugary beverage consumption.



**Wendy Tuohy@wtuohy** The care and compassion of community health workers like Ashley Baker is truly humbling. #icewars



Westmead gym instructor Daniel Kang will get you into shape with the Fitness Passport.

## Your passport to fitness just landed at Western Sydney Local Health District

Strap on your runners and break out the lycra - Fitness Passport has launched at WSLHD.

The program – the first part of the WSLHD employee wellbeing program - gives eligible employees and their families access to pools and gyms across Sydney at a fraction of the usual cost.

It means staff can go to a gym close to work during the week, and the one closest to home on their days off.

WSLHD organisational development consultant Dr Kate Reid described Fitness Passport as a win for staff, and for the health district.

“Employee health and wellbeing are vital; healthy staff are happy staff, and happy staff

are more productive and want to stay with us,” she said.

Almost 1800 staff members across our facilities say they are interested in joining Fitness Passport, which has already been rolled out in several other LHDs.

You can sign up for Fitness Passport at <http://www.fitnesspassport.com.au/WSS>

For more information, including eligibility, the facilities that are part of Fitness Passport and fees, go to <http://wslhdintranet.wsahs.nsw.gov.au/Fitness-Passport/fitness-passport>

Employee wellbeing is part of WSLHD strategic priorities to attract and support exceptional people and to keep the people of western Sydney healthy.

## Westmead’s Darcy team spread the love



Westmead Hospital nurses Caroline Mapanao and Joanna Boudib support the cause.

Nursing staff from Westmead Hospital’s operating suite’s Darcy Unit have continued their challenge to raise as much money as possible for the Fred Hollows Foundation, ahead of their 30km coast trek walk next month.

Team Darcy, comprised of Michelle Attard, Caroline Mapanao, Maria Soriano and Joanne Bancroft, set up a “Sweets for my Sweet” stall at the hospital’s main entrance selling Valentine’s Day-themed chocolates and sweet treats.

The 30km walk from Kirribilli to Bondi raises funds for the Fred Hollows Foundation to help restore sight to people in third world countries and the indigenous population.

## Research and Education Network

**Stephen Leeder, WSLHD Research and Education Network director**

I spent a week in Hanoi recently with a group of 30 people from Sydney led by veteran academic Professor Kerry Goulston. This was a piece of a nearly 20-year (thus far!) program of joint activity between Vietnam (especially Hanoi) Sydney University and Royal North Shore Hospital called the Hoc Mai Foundation. Hoc Mai means ‘forever learning’ and the great strength of the program is that it is mutual - doctors and nurses come to Sydney to learn and clinicians and students visit Vietnam to learn. It is what is known in the trade as a ‘bilateral program’ - two equal arms, working together. Australia and Vietnam now have \$10B of bilateral trade a year!

So what did I learn? I spent time talking with young clinicians about how they could do research and publish papers. I was certainly not the first to do this and nor will I be the last! It is a continuing story. I also helped young health professionals with speaking English. I came away thinking that although we face common problems - clinicians struggling to get time to do research, finding money to support research and then going through the complex challenge of packaging research into papers - their struggle is ten times more difficult than ours. They contend with English in a big way - and some of our group spent many patient hours with nurses and doctors on pronunciation, especially consonants. But they face difficulty accessing journals. Thank goodness for the Web and Internet that are transforming access to vital research insights, but there is a long path to travel. The new Australian ambassador, Craig Chittick, met us and is enthused about Hoc Mai and I am confident will support it strongly.

In a country that is steadily progressing after decades of war, there is a gentleness of spirit and optimism that is infectious. We learned to count our blessings! Hospital buildings in Hanoi are good and well equipped but beds still often contain two patients, so just think about that when next you say ‘we are short of beds’. Of course our social contexts are completely different and we each must respond to where we are. But it helps to think occasionally of our good fortune as a nation. Professor Dang Van Duang, the Hoc Mai coordinator in Hanoi reminded me that it was 19 years since he and several colleagues, Professor Goulston and Professor Robinson and others and I had dinner at University of Sydney when I was the medical dean and we were completing formalities for the establishment of Hoc Mai.

I claim no credit for what has happened since - that is due to the wonderful work of others. But I suggested to Duang that we should not wait 19 more years before we shared another meal!!

# Thanks a bunch



## Endless care from social workers

I had to write to compliment the wonderful work that is being done by Samantha Moran and also Wayne Ardley, the social workers. I have been in the O.P.E.R.A. ward at Westmead Hospital with my husband Alan for more than two weeks, and going through the most stressful ordeal of my life, and particularly Samantha, has been a lifeline for me.

Nothing is too much trouble, and it does matter how many times you call on her for assistance, there she is. She made the conversation to have Alan placed into a nursing home, so much easier, helping as much as she could. Her removal to another ward was quite stressful for me but Wayne quickly filled that gap for me, so thank to both of them.

*L Lodder*

## Deep appreciation for extraordinary care

Sometimes it's hard to think of the right words to say thank you...

During February my Mum travelling as a passenger, was involved in a terrible multi-vehicle car crash at Blaxland. The world stopped for me when I received a phone call to learn my Mum is at an operating theatre at Westmead hospital, and not in Blue Mountains as she planned that day. I was unaware of the severity of her injuries. The next morning, I received another phonecall explaining in more details of what happened to her.

She went through a series of operations and this letter is to thank all the staff at Westmead Hospital who looked after my Mum.

I met some extraordinary people who do extraordinary things with extraordinary love. It's been of unbelievable relief to me to know that my Mum is being looked after such beautiful individuals. She was treated with utmost respect, love, empathy and compassion.

*M Massadiq*

## Introducing WSLHD Board members



WSLHD Board Members (standing left to right) : Michael Edye, Kathy Baker, Natalie McDonald, Narelle Bell, Andrew Bernard, Joanne Edwards, Don Nutbeam, Di O'Halloran, Andrew Newton, Elizabeth Crouch, Bruce Turner.

(Front left to right): Jeremy Chapman (Deputy Chair), Danny O'Connor (Chief Executive), Richard Alcock (Chair) and Jane Spring.

The refreshed WSLHD Board met for the first time on Tuesday 14 February 2017.

The Board, with the Chief Executive and Executive team, look forward to formulating strategy and service delivery, focussing on our core responsibilities in clinical care, preventative health and education and research and building strong relationships with our patients and families, with our communities and other external stakeholders.

Enquiries for the Board may be sent to [wslhd-boardsecretariat@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wslhd-boardsecretariat@health.nsw.gov.au)



## Save the date

### Westmead Women's and Newborn Health Conference

Friday 5 May and Saturday, 6 May, 2017

Westmead Hospital Education and Conference Centre

For further information or to submit your abstract, visit: [WSLHD-Women@Newbornhealth@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:WSLHD-Women@Newbornhealth@health.nsw.gov.au)

### Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospitals' Nursing and Midwifery Research Symposium

Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospitals Nursing and Midwifery Research Symposium planned for the 12th April 2017 has been postponed to November 2017. Date to be advised.

### Westmead Women's and Newborn Health and Community Migrant Resource Centre - Celebrate International Women's Day

Wednesday 8 March, 2017

9am - 1pm free event

Registration opens at 8am.

Join us to celebrate innovation, the portrayal of women in the media and the importance of education and career opportunities.

RSVP essential.

To register visit:

<https://events.wmrf.org.au/IWDFUN>

For further information, call Nelma Galas 9845 6153 or [nelma.galas@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nelma.galas@health.nsw.gov.au) or Norma Boules on 9687 9901 or [norma.boules@cmrc.com.au](mailto:norma.boules@cmrc.com.au)

### Australian Healthcare Week Expo 2017 Symposium

International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour Sydney

8-9 March 2017

Entry is free

Seats are limited - to reserve your seat, visit <http://expo.austhealthweek.com.au/ahw-expo-form---gov>