

## Balmain Hospital leads the flu vax pack

In this week's round up of the District's influenza vaccination campaign, Balmain Hospital has maintained its lead, with 66 per cent of staff now vaccinated.

Their success has been driven by prominent displays of posters advertising flu shot locations, and letters sent to all staff to remind them to take advantage of the free vaccination. Last week a barbecue was held to thank staff for helping the hospital maintain its top ranking.



*Another one done...RPAH Clinical Nurse Consultant Carol Taylor vaccinates Anna Pickering during a visit to theatre staff.*

"We are definitely doing better than last year," said Staff Health Coordinator Evalyn Eldering.

Evalyn dedicates one day a week to giving flu vaccinations, and has used the opportunity to update other immunisations that might have lapsed.

Staff have also been enthusiastic about the campaign, with doctors urging their patients to get the free flu shot while in hospital. So far 12 patients have taken up the offer, mostly in the transitional care unit.

Sydney Dental Hospital is catching up, with 40 per cent of staff now vaccinated.

"We did the bulk of the staff last week," said Staff Health Coordinator June Cassidy.

"It's been better than I thought. I've had to make an additional order for the vaccine."

Canterbury Hospital's Staff Health unit is dedicating three days a week to administering flu vaccinations, with more than 70 staff vaccinated over the last week. The campaign at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is also going exceptionally well. All staff that work in high risk areas have now been vaccinated.

Concord Hospital's Staff Health Nursing Unit Manager Carol Briggs has so far vaccinated more than 1,000 staff - almost half of the hospital's workforce. She holds three sessions daily and provides ward vaccinations.

"So far rates are steady with last year's campaign," she said. "And we only offer lollypops. I'm thinking next year we follow Balmain's lead and hold a barbecue."