



UPDATE

Mental Health

In the lead up to the Missenden Psychiatric Unit at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital moving into a custom-built facility later this year, the unit has been implementing an innovative model of nursing care based on Trauma Informed Care and Practice. The model recognises the presence of trauma in the lives of many mental health service users and aims to minimise the occurrence of iatrogenic harm in inpatient services.

A project team has been working for the past year to develop an achievable model of nursing practice that prioritises psychological safety as a core nursing goal.

Nurses have reviewed the unit's rules to ensure consistency and transparency; attended workshops on communications, and managing distress; and participated in education on trauma.

2014 focuses on translating the philosophies into everyday collaborative, consumer-focused nursing care that fits within the existing multidisciplinary structures of the unit. The project is ever-evolving.

May sees the start of a program of peer supervision to support all the nurses to work within a supportive trauma-informed environment.

Drug Health

Consultant Larry Marlow continues to work with the Drug Health Services Executive to set priorities and directions for the service following dissolution of the Inter-District Agreement with SWSLHD.

Workshops have identified key project priorities including finalising the Strategic Plan, reviewing models of care, finalising the organisational structure, improving communication processes and improving integration between Drug Health and facilities. Feedback will be incorporated and the Drug Health CORE values ratified at a staff forum on 17 June.

Drug Health Services at Concord is progressing a clinical redesign of the existing inpatient withdrawal unit and rehabilitation unit. The redesigned service will integrate the two units to provide seamless care; and improve discharge planning to link patients with community support.

Professor Andrew Dawson is acting as Clinical Director for Drug Health Services while Professor Paul Haber recovers from a cycling accident. We thank staff for the many expressions of concern for Paul and wish him well in his recovery.

A job well done



Leading the way...SLHD board members line up for their flu vaccinations.

It's been a success – more than 40 per cent of staff across Sydney Local Health District hospitals have taken up the offer of a free flu vaccination as part of the District's campaign to reduce the spread of influenza this year.

By mid-April, Balmain Hospital was still leading the pack, with more than 70 per cent of staff vaccinated.

Balmain's high uptake has been attributed to the dedication of flu vaccination coordinator, Evalyn Eldering, who takes a mobile vaccination unit to staff meetings and regularly visits the wards at nurse handover times.

"We get them coming and going," said Evalyn. "The trolley run is a really good way of getting to people who might be too busy to seek us out. It's been really successful."

The other facilities are not far behind, with Sydney Dental Hospital and Community Health having vaccinated half of their staff.

"There's been a much bigger uptake than last year," said Sydney Dental

Hospital's Staff Health Coordinator, June Cassidy. "I've had to make an additional order for the vaccine."

As part of the 2014 Influenza Vaccination campaign, organisers will conduct a feedback survey. The questionnaire will soon be emailed to all staff and will be available from staff health units and vaccination coordinators.

"The survey is very important feedback for us, to know why people do, and particularly why they don't, have the flu shot," said Acting Director of Nursing and Midwifery at RPA and chair of the flu vaccination working party, Claire Harris.

"The survey results will help us better tailor next year's campaign to increase staff uptake of the seasonal flu vaccine across the District."

Staff participation in the survey is voluntary. The questionnaire takes five minutes and is anonymous.

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