



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

20 October 2004

### **Local healthcare innovations up for quality awards**

**Five teams from South Western Sydney Area Health Service (SWSAHS) are eligible for a prize at the State's top health awards this week.**

The NSW Baxter Health Awards are held annually to acknowledge innovative and quality health projects implemented in NSW Health and the area health services.

The awards will be presented by NSW Health Minister Morris Iemma with SWSAHS receiving five finalist nominations from a record number of 16 entries from hospitals and community health teams across the area.

The projects highlight the pursuit of excellence from teams and individuals to improve the quality, innovation and safety of healthcare for the people of south-western Sydney and across the State.

The SWSAHS project finalists are:

- *Toxic drug monitoring* in the Safety of Healthcare category by Liverpool Hospital Department of Rheumatology clinical nurse specialist Helene Rickard and Dr Kathryn Gibson.

The team developed a standardised monitoring and nurse driven education program for patients on long-term and potentially toxic rheumatoid arthritis treatments to improve compliance and minimise the incidence of adverse effects.

- *SWSAHS Community Participation Framework* in the Consumer Participation in Healthcare category by SWSAHS acting community participation manager Alice Wood.

The SWSAHS Community Participation Framework was developed to drive structures and processes that enable effective community involvement in health service planning and decision-making processes.

- *A targeted education program to build capacity to promote health* in the Education and Training category by SWSAHS nurse education manager Lian Yong and director of nursing Rosemary Chester.

The program developed a three year *Graduate Certificate in Family and Child Health Nursing* in a sustained approach to building capacity and competence of primary health nurses with the aim of extending their services to visit families at home while meeting the objectives of the Families First initiative.

- *The development and implementation of the Certificate III in Aged Care Work Nursing Assistant* in the Education and Training Category by Bankstown Hospital nurse educator Nicole McGreal and team.

The hospital's team, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Training, developed and implemented a Nursing Vocation and Training (VET) Program for year 11 and 12 high school students providing practical work opportunities for students, that articulate into further training, while enhancing staff numbers.

- *The Bare Essentials of Nursing Care - Pressure ulcer prevention strategies that improve patient outcomes* in the Effectiveness of Healthcare category by Liverpool Hospital Division of Surgery nursing staff.

Nurses in the Division of Surgery established a pressure ulcer reporting system to significantly reduce the incidence of pressure ulcers in patients and manage ulcers to improve patient outcomes.

Each team will present their project at an Award Finalists' Presentation Day on Friday 22 October before an awards ceremony in the evening at The Australian Technology Park.

The ten award categories based on the *Framework for Managing the Quality of Health Services in NSW* include: safety, effectiveness, appropriateness, consumer participation, access, efficiency, competence, information management, continuity of care and education and training.

Many of the projects that carry strong merit can be implemented across the State health system and where possible can be applied as models to support policy development and health programs.

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**Issued by South Western Sydney Area Health Service Public Affairs.**

**For more information and interviews please contact Katie Perry on 9828 6848.**