

e-news Healthtalk

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Better Health, Good Health Care

Recommendations in full swing

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Acute Care
Response Unit, the
golden phone, is
now up and
running
24 hours a day

Our clinical plan, South Western Sydney Health Network *The Way Forward* is well underway with many of the 389 recommendations detailed in the plan already in place.

Area-wide clinical services are being formed, driven by clinicians, to create a one service, multi-campus health care delivery system across SWSAHS.

Each clinical service will be led by two co-directors, supported by a service development manager. These directors will be appointed by Christmas. This follows a call for expressions of interest in September and early October.

For the coming year 2004/05, 51 recommendations from *The Way Forward* have already been implemented with 181 in process and 20 continuing. This means that all are implemented, with only 3 incomplete at this time.

Below is a breakdown of what's been happening at each hospital.

Liverpool

- The sustainable access plan has seen 15 transitional care beds opened with a further five to come on line and an additional 10 beds for acute patients remaining open at a total cost of \$1.5 million
- Community care packages to assist older patients and patients with high support needs to be discharged early have been funded to \$500,000

- The \$300,000 Acute Care Response Unit *golden phone*, one of our most innovative measures providing one point of access to staff who need to transfer critically ill patients, is now up and running 24 hours a day 7 days a week
- Two additional staff specialists are now working in ED
- An Emergency Medicine Unit (EMU) for short stay patients which will also provide transitional care in ED is due to be opened in January next year
- An extra intensive care registrar has joined our ICU team
- Our Intensive Care Unit now has an additional \$600,000 fully equipped bed for critically ill patients
- The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is now benefiting from \$500,000 spent on an additional intensive care cot for our sickest babies
- Funding of \$80,000 has allowed a MET coordinator to begin work and commence ongoing training for staff across the area
- An extra \$500,000 is being used to fund additional activity generated by a new service to conduct electro physiology studies and implant defibrillators in cardiac patients
- A \$500,000 enhancement is already being used to undertake additional endoluminal procedures (vascular stenting)



What's happening at our hospitals



Liverpool cont'd

- A total of \$1.2 million is in place to cover the cost of the most expensive cancer treatment drugs
- Replacement of one of the existing cardiac catheter laboratories and establishment of a third cardiac catheter laboratory at a total cost of over \$2.87 million, which will increase Liverpool's capacity to support the SWSAHS network

Bankstown

- \$1 million has been ploughed into nursing home beds, transitional care services and community care packages to facilitate early discharge from hospital, primarily for older patients

Fairfield

- Funding of \$500,000 for the hospital's ICU now means they will soon have access to an on call intensive care specialist while recruitment will shortly commence to provide specialist intensivist cover of the unit from Bankstown Hospital
- The ED is building expanded senior medical cover including VMO emergency physicians and ongoing resources for increased overnight cover due to \$400,000 funding
- An additional paediatrician (staff specialist) will be joining the Paediatrics Department this month
- A patient liaison officer has hit the ground running and is fielding complaints and positive feedback from patients and visitors to the hospital
- Funding of \$200,000 has enabled the hospital to recruit a new cardiologist (staff specialist) who will start work full time in January

Bowral

- To expand the ED's nursing triage program \$230,000 funding has been allocated and positions are currently being advertised

Campbelltown and Camden

- ICU medical cover is now being provided by staff specialists on rotation from Liverpool Hospital
- An ICU CNC is leading the way in nursing care and innovation
- An additional seven medical registrar places have been funded by the plan with the positions filled and the registrars already caring for the people of Campbelltown
- Neurology at the hospital has had a big boost with the appointment of a staff specialist and registrar working in the department
- 10 additional acute beds remain open under the sustainable access plan
- A new specialist cardiology service funded by over \$600,000 is now available with a roster of four cardiologists working to develop the hospital as centre of excellence in heart failure
- Director of surgery Professor Reg Lord has been leading the Division of Surgery and will continue to the end of the year with funding ensuring the position continues
- In an innovative solution to caring for critically ill people who need to be transferred to a tertiary facility, Liverpool Hospital now has an additional \$600,000 funding an ICU bed specifically allocated to cater for patients coming from Campbelltown

Area wide

- Over \$2.3 million is already being ploughed into facilities across the area to specifically target long wait list surgery patients
- Funding and approval has been received for an additional 39 registrars to work across the area health service, starting in January. Interviews have been conducted for these positions and recruitment is continuing.