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## **St George Hospital Pelvic Floor Unit helps thousands of patients with a pressing problem**

It's a subject that many people avoid, but if you have loss of control of the bladder, resulting in leakage of urine and wetting, you are not alone.

In fact, more than 5,000 people visit the St George Hospital Pelvic Floor Unit every year seeking help.

Clinicians and staff – both past and present – who have worked in the Pelvic Floor Unit at St George Hospital will come together on Monday 2 July, 2012 to celebrate two decades of providing expert medical care to patients with incontinence issues.

According to Professor Kate Moore, urogynaecologist, the Pelvic Floor Unit at St George Hospital is one of the largest and oldest facilities in the southern hemisphere for the diagnosis and management of urinary and faecal incontinence.

“The establishment of the Pelvic Floor Unit in July 1992 was a joint effort between Pam Anderson, nurse continence advisor, a urologist and colorectal surgeon from St George Hospital, and myself,” Professor Moore said.

“Originally located in the old nurses’ changing room of the operating theatres, the Pelvic Floor Unit has been operating out of its demountable building premises off Belgrave Street in Kogarah since 1994.

“Since then we have become a regional referral unit, seeing patients from across New South Wales and the ACT,” she said.

Professor Moore said a dedicated clinic for women who experience tears of their anal sphincter during childbirth – a pioneering effort of Dr Emmanuel Karantanis, consultant urogynaecologist – has also been established in recent years.

“As well as treating the many thousands of patients who come through the door each year, we provide clinical teaching to more than 170 University of New South Wales medical students every year,” Professor Moore said.

“We also have an internationally well known research track record,” she said.

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