

8 May 2014

## **NURSES ACROSS SYDNEY'S EASTERN SUBURBS HONOURED FOR INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY**

In recognition of International Nurses Day – Monday, 12 May - nurses at the Randwick Hospitals Campus (Campus) and War Memorial Hospital are being honoured this week, 12 to 16 May for their outstanding contribution to health care.

Over 2,000 nurses work across the Randwick Campus - the largest public hospital campus in the Southern hemisphere - which includes Prince of Wales Hospital, Royal Hospital for Women and Sydney Children's Hospital and War Memorial Hospital (WMH) in Waverley, caring for newborns to the elderly.

This year, the Campus and WMH have also received an intake of 86 new graduate or transition nurses. Of these, 1,300 nurses and 54 graduate nurses have positions at Prince of Wales Hospital. The Royal Hospital for Women employs 175 nurses, which includes eight new graduate nurses. Sydney Children's Hospital has 563 nurses including 21 new graduate nurses; and there are 78 nurses at War Memorial Hospital with three graduate nurses.

Kim Olesen, Director of Nursing and Midwifery, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD), said she was honoured to have such an amazing and inspiring team of nurses.

"While International Nurses Day comes only once a year, I believe we should honour and celebrate the dedicated work of our nurses every day," Ms Olesen said.

"The Randwick Hospitals Campus and War Memorial Hospital are world class teaching facilities, staffed by teams of nurses whose skills are second to none.

"Nurses are fundamental to the successful daily function of hospitals, and play a vital role in providing quality healthcare to our community; and I am encouraged at the continually strong intake of nurses we receive each year."

Sally Whalen, Director of Nursing, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick said her team of nurses are at the heart of what the Hospital strives to achieve.

"Our nurses really embody the Hospital's mission of children, first and foremost. International Nurses Week provides us with an opportunity to thank them for their contribution and the dedication in which they apply to their job each and every day," Ms Whalen said.

International Nurses Day is celebrated on 12 May each year to mark the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, who is widely considered the founder of modern nursing.

The day is celebrated globally to remember the valuable contributions nurses make to society. This year's theme for International Nurses Day is, '*Nurses: A Force for Change – A vital resource for health.*'

Celebrations across the Campus and WMH include a Campus-wide Nursing Research and Practice Development Symposium, information talks, morning and afternoon teas, barbeques, breakfasts for night duty staff, evening functions and annual nurse of the year awards and nursing scholarships.

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