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## HealthOne Sutherland boosts integrated care for local residents

HealthOne Sutherland is set to provide seamless, integrated care to people to prevent illness and avoid hospitalisations by providing better access to health care in the community.

The \$1.6 million facility – which was officially opened at Sutherland Hospital today – will bring together all aspects of the health system to ensure that patients from the Sutherland Shire and St George district, with complex, long-term conditions receive the right care, in the right place and at the right time.

Touring the new facility, Dr Greg Stewart, Director of Operations, Ambulatory and Primary Health Care, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD), said HealthOne Sutherland will provide access to appropriate health services for people with complex health needs or chronic illnesses who are living at home.

“While acute hospital care is the only suitable option for some, it is not necessary for many others,” Dr Stewart said.

“Integrated care can help people manage their own health, keeping them healthy, independent and out of hospital for as long as possible. This includes people with chronic disease, frail elderly people and people with a disability.

“Patients receive the care best suited to them; from preventative measures to advice on self-management of long-term conditions such as diabetes, heart and lung diseases.

“Integrated and co-ordinated services offered out of HealthOne Sutherland will ensure the patient remains an active participant in the healthcare they receive.”

At the opening, Gerry Marr, Chief Executive of SESLHD unveiled SESLHD’s Integrated Care Strategy which he said is the future of a modern health system.

“HealthOne Sutherland will be a demonstrator site as part of SESLHD’s Integrated Care Strategy. This strategy will form a narrative and vision for integrated healthcare in the district, and will look at developing new and innovative ways of managing increasing demand on health services. It will move care to a more person-centre approach,” Mr Marr said.

Funded from the NSW Ministry of Health’s HealthOne NSW Strategy, HealthOne Sutherland will engage existing community partners of Sutherland Hospital and Southcare (Aged and Extended Care); create multidisciplinary teams consisting of GPs, community health and other health professionals; and partner with the primary and community sector to develop models of care to assist those experiencing long-term conditions.

Current programs offered include an Aboriginal lifestyle support program, a community diabetes education program, an outreach centre and fitness groups. A lifestyle intervention and management program including collaborative clinics run with GPs, mental health, drug and alcohol and other health providers is a new model of care that will run out of HealthOne Sutherland.

For a referral to HealthOne Sutherland contact 9540 8181.