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WINNERS LIST: From sustainability to research, WSLHD celebrates 2024 Quality Awards success

13 Sep, 2024, 3:38 pm

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Enhancing Aboriginal youth well-being, cutting-edge cell therapy research and enhancing staff and patient wellbeing were among the winners at the Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) 2024 District Quality Awards.

The annual awards night celebrates innovation and excellence in healthcare and brings together clinicians, academics, and teams to recognise their transformative contributions to the western Sydney community.

More than 100 award submissions were received, representing a diverse range of services and specialties across WSLHD.

Each submission highlighted projects that not only elevate patient care but also reflect the District's commitment to driving quality healthcare improvements, fostering innovation and recognising leadership.

This year's event was hosted by the District's Executive Director of Quality and Safety, Professor Peter Hockey, and attended by key leaders, including NSW Health Secretary Susan Pearce AM, and Acting Chief Executive Alison Derrett, as well as award finalists and colleagues.

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"We're here to recognise the amazing projects, staff, and highlights in Western Sydney Local Health District," Secretary Pearce said.

"I thank you for the work that you do each and every day of the year.

"When you're recognised, remember that you are being recognised in an incredibly large pool of people.

“

You should be incredibly proud.”

Allison Derrett expressed her pride in the exceptional work showcased at the awards.

"The depth of talent and passion in WSLHD is truly remarkable. These awards are a wonderful way to honour the individuals and teams whose vision and commitment continue to enhance the delivery healthcare in western Sydney.

"Our incredible staff are what makes this District such a special place."

From reducing environmental impacts through hospital recycling to creating solutions that address the unique needs of western Sydney's diverse population, the awards highlighted efforts that are enhancing services for our patients and our community.

Congratulations to all the finalists and winners for their incredible work in 2024. The full list of categories and winners includes:

Excellence in Aboriginal Healthcare

Winner: The Young Strong and Deadly

The Young, Strong, and Deadly program, co-designed by the Aboriginal Health Hub, Youth Health, and Western Sydney Aboriginal communities, supports Aboriginal adolescents aged 12-16 in overcoming barriers to physical activity and nutrition. This program addresses key contributors to chronic diseases in Aboriginal youth.

Environmental Sustainability

Winner: Recycling for the Community, the Planet and Health

Auburn Hospital Recycling for the community, the planet and health project which has been running for 17 years and has expanded into recyclable medical equipment and increasing the number of departments in the recycling program, this project continues in its aims to reduce the carbon footprint while saving the hospital money.

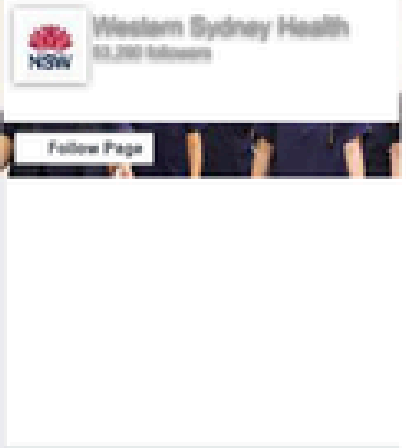
Staff Empowerment and Growth

Winner: Westmead Hospital Schwartz Rounds

This initiative provides a monthly forum where healthcare workers discuss the emotional and social impact of their roles in a safe and respectful environment. Recognised for its success with increased attendance and positive feedback, Westmead has been chosen by NSW Health as a demonstration site for other facilities.

Health Innovation Award

Winner: The Health Hackathon: Empowering Students as Tomorrow's Leaders



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Meet the Board

The Western Sydney Local Health District Board features twelve Board Members who bring a wealth of experience and local knowledge to the management of our LHD.

Meet the WSLHD Board Members

Featured Video

Directions to the new We...



Directions to the new Westmead Hospital Emergency Department

The Health Hackathon aimed to empower students to develop a health campaign to support emerging health professionals. The program used social media to engage young people in developing innovative campaigns.

Health Innovation Award

Winner: ED Triage 2 Treatment: Improving Access to Care

The project reduced time to treatment for triage category 2 patients presenting to Blacktown Emergency Department to 80% (from 39%) and has maintained this exceptional performance.

Health Research Award

Winner: Enabling Translational Cell Therapy Research

The team developed a centralised, efficient, and adaptable platform for cell therapy development, and are accelerating the translation of innovative treatments to patients in need. Sydney Cell and Gene Therapy is enabling patient access to locally developed advanced therapies with more than 500 patients treated in clinical trials targeting cancer, life threatening infections and chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

Keeping People Healthy

Winner: Me & My Body

The program focused on developing the skills of empowerment, communication, self-esteem, resilience, social skills, and other life skills to prevent abuse, reduce violence and promote life-enriching rather than life-depleting experiences. The program achieved improved health outcomes for children, educators, and parents/carers by increasing skills and knowledge to respond to disclosures or concerns.

Excellence in Multicultural Healthcare

Winner: Towards Holistic Health for Pacific Communities, now and the future

The first Pacific Communities Health Forum was held to improve mutual understanding, find culturally safe and appropriate ways to enhance health for Pacific communities and advance cooperation and partnership.

The inaugural forum provided an opportunity to recognise health needs and outcomes of the Pacific people and empowered the participants to take actions towards improving access and equity.

Transforming Patient Experience

Winner: What's Important Today (WIT) Rounds

This project aimed to improve commitment to National Palliative Care Standards by identifying daily patient and carer care needs through an additional "What's Important Round" by Allied Health and Senior Nursing Staff. There were multiple benefits identified- including improved experience of care by patients.

Patient Safety First

Winner: The Use of Bioflo® Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters with Hyperemesis Gravidarum patients

The project aimed to provide safe and seamless Central Venous Access to HG patients during their treatment in the HiTH service. A change of CVAD access device to a PICC Bioflo® was implemented resulting in a reduction of complication in HG patients from 10% to zero (0%).

Excellence in the Provision of Mental Health Services

Winner: Westmead Mother & Baby Unit

Mental Health Services and WSLHD Redevelopment delivered facilities for women with acute/severe mental illness in the perinatal period and up to 12 months postnatal. In 12 months, the unit has enabled the admission of 54 women from LHDs across NSW, including regional and remote locations, to receive specialist multi-disciplinary mental health care during the crucial early bonding period. Feedback surveys detail how consumers have felt respected and provided care based on their individual needs.

Collaborative Team of the Year

Winner: Oral Health Services

Oral Health Services have shown excellence in clinical care and quality through outstanding teamwork and leadership, highlighted by their success in the Short Notice Accreditation under the National Safety & Quality Healthcare Standards. They are commended for key processes, including a strong focus on learning from consumers, 100% compliance with policies, their deep knowledge of safety and improvement. With two Quality Award finalist projects from Oral Health, the team are commended for their outstanding achievements.

Bright sparQ Award

Winner: Gianni Perri

Gianni has provided outstanding support to the District, collaborating across all facilities and services on various design and communications projects throughout the year. Notably, he played a key role supporting Westmead's accreditation and promoting the sparQ brand and local Quality Awards. His professionalism, communication, efficiency, and creativity have consistently led to excellent outcomes for the teams he works with and the wider District.

Young Leader of the Year

Winner: Sarah Ip

Sarah plays a pivotal role in shaping evidence-based interventions that reflect local and community needs. Known for her innovation and optimism, she fosters a culture of creativity while recognising the hard work of others. Sarah demonstrates cultural competence, incorporating community voices in program planning and making data-driven decisions. She is committed to research, securing grants, collaborating with academics, and sharing findings widely. Additionally, Sarah values capacity-building, supporting staff to embed tobacco and e-cigarette care models in everyday practice.

Consumer/ Community Representative of the Year

Winner: Sarah Baihn

As a mental health consumer, Sarah Baihn has an inspiring recovery story and is deeply committed to improving mental health services for her peers and community.

Sarah is known for her humour, resilience, and dedication to supporting others. She shares her story to inspire and empower others with mental health challenges, contributing to various projects.

HCQC Chair's Award for Commitment to Quality Improvement Award

Winner: City to Bush Dentistry

When it began in 2004, City to Bush Dentistry aimed to improve access to paediatric oral healthcare in Murrumbidgee and Southern NSW with Dr. Neeta Prabhu travelling monthly to Albury Dental Clinic to reduce travel and wait times for children. Now one of the longest-running metro-regional partnerships in Australia, the service has received more than 1,100 new referrals, reduced travel costs by \$2,200 per child, with 55% of children treated without general anaesthesia, saving \$4,500 per patient.

WSLHD Board Chair's Award

Winner: Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospitals Safety & Quality Taskforce

Established in February 2023, the Taskforce has fostered a culture of quality, safety, and improvement. Their learning-focused approach has led to significant enhancements in clinical services, with a strong emphasis on leadership, workforce, surgery, and emergency department improvements. The recent accreditation visit highlighted the positive impact of the taskforce, noting the quality and safety language adopted by frontline staff as a key success.

Chief Executive's Exceptional Contribution Award

Winner: Dr Stephanie Fletcher-Lartey

Dr Stephanie Fletcher-Lartey is a role model who fosters a supportive environment, encourages experimentation and growth, equips staff with the tools and skills needed for effective evaluations and continuous improvement. A public health and bio-preparedness epidemiologist with over 25 years of experience, an author, recording artist, and Ordained Minister. As an established leader, they have been instrumental in advancing evaluation practices. Their strategic partnerships with institutions like the University of Sydney and the University of Wollongong, and their innovative 'learning by doing' approach, have transformed traditional evaluation methods.

People's Choice Award

Winner: *Recycling for the Community, the Planet and Health*

[See the full Quality Awards 2024 photo gallery here](#)

← [Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals score highly in National Safety and Quality review](#)

[PHOTO GALLERY: WSLHD Quality Awards 2024 – Celebrating excellence and innovation](#)

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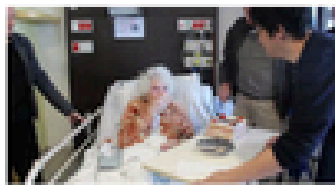
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📅 07 Aug, 2021, 6:22 pm



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📅 31 Mar, 2023, 9:32 am



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📅 07 May, 2024, 12:47 pm

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Stories should be submitted via WSLHD-ThePulse@health.nsw.gov.au, and be at least 150 words long.

Stories may be edited for length, quality, clarity and relevance.

Photos must be high resolution and include correctly spelled captions

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with names from left to right.

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