

FOREWORD

### - ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE

### **GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



Dr Michael Stanford Group Chief Executive Officer St John of God Health Care Inc. I am immensely proud to introduce this collection of candid photographs and personal stories that honestly and openly reflect on 25 years since our story began. For many of us, these will evoke memories of times, places and people.

The words and images bound together in the pages of this book in celebration of our milestone anniversary not only tell of the journey of our organisation, our people and our communities from 1989 to 2014, they also embody and give life to our Vision, Mission and Values, conveying the heart of who we are.

Each and every St John of God person has made a difference to people's lives through their contribution over the last 25 years.

I hope this inspiring collection will fill you with a sense of pride for all that has been achieved and invigorate you to continue to do as the Sisters of St John of God intended – *to go and do likewise*.



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MESSAGE

# SISTERS OF ST JOHN OF GOD



Sr Isobel Moran Australian Regional Leader Sisters of St John of God The visionary and courageous Sisters responsible for the momentous step of establishing St John of God Health Care would be delighted to see how the organisation has not only endured, but flourished and expanded beyond their wildest expectations.

The dedication of those responsible is testimony to God's love for the poor, the sick and the vulnerable. The Sisters esteem their dedication and commitment, and thank them for being at the forefront in revealing the compassionate care of Christ for all people. Indeed, the experience of compassion, respect and excellence of care imbued with hospitality towards the other is, for many people, their most immediate experience of God's personal love and their own intrinsic value.

The Sisters pray that God's provident care continues with St John of God Health Care so that it remains a beacon of hope and light in our world. MESSAGE

# GROUP DIRECTOR MISSION



Jennifer Stratton Group Director Mission St John of God Health Care Inc.

I nspired by the example of our founders, who modelled how to bring the healing touch of God's love to the sick, the suffering and the vulnerable, we have stepped up to the challenge of carrying the Mission. As St John of God people we continue to provide services that affirm each person's dignity and bring them comfort and hope.

Over the past 25 years health care and disability services have had to be delivered in an increasingly complex business environment, placing pressure on both human and financial resources. The journey has required leadership and commitment from all our caregivers to ensure that the Mission remains the primary focus.

This treasure trove of photographs and stories illustrates how this has been achieved with confidence and a sense of gratitude.



- ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE -

## **OUR BEGINNINGS**

"It is our dream that our hospitals will be working together as one for the good of the Catholic health mission of the Church and our own Catholic health ministry of the Sisters of St John of God."

> Sr Verna Haugh, Provincial Superior, November 1988





S t John of God Health Care Inc came into being in 1989 from seeds planted in 1895 by the Sisters of St John of God, when they responded to a request from the Bishop of Perth to provide care for typhoid-stricken miners in the gold rush chaos of Western Australia at that time.

Over the 95 years between 1895 and 1989, the Sisters' health care ministry developed from a canvas-tent facility to a nine-hospital group.

Each hospital was established following an invitation from the local bishop, representing a pastoral response to the needs of people. The Sisters enjoyed the generous help and support of local communities in their efforts to provide the best possible health care services for pregnant, sick and dying people. They took responsibility for all aspects of the functioning of their hospitals, always with the advice and counsel of local doctors, clergy and other 'wise people of the community'. Major changes in medical science, government policies and Catholic Church thinking in the 1970s and 80s led the Sisters to dramatically rethink the governance, management and functioning of their hospitals in Australia.

Until 1988, each hospital was led by the local community of Sisters who had a high level of autonomy as there was relatively little influence exercised by the congregational leaders.

Changes to the delivery of health care became more rapid in the 1980s. New and expensive technologies were introduced and many of the Sisters' facilities required redeveloping to support ongoing improvements in the delivery of health care services. Considerable economic pressure was also mounting for the hospitals. The number of Sisters working in the hospitals had declined and they had to be replaced by lay caregivers, and operating costs were increasing significantly.



#### IMAGES

Above: The US tour team, from left to right: Mr Iain Gauld (Director of Civil and Civic, who led the redevelopment of the Subiaco Hospital), Sr Deidre Brady (Subiaco Hospital Director), Mr Brian Lee (Subiaco Hospital Administrator), Sr Columba Howard (Local Leader), Sr Verna Haugh (Province Leader) and Mr Ted Montague (Maintenance).

Above right: Sr Mary Maurita Sengelaub RSM.

Opposite page: The 1983 Chapter delegates, from left to right: Back row: Srs Eileen Mary Dowling, Rosarii Carroll, Francesca Dunphy, Eileen Egan, Brenda Gardiner, Camillus Buckley, Albert Kenny, Patricia Doyle, Monica Sinnott and Aquinas Morris; Front row: Srs Cecilia Masterson and Roch Kissane, Brother Ron Fogarty (facilitator), Srs Martha Forde, Corona Gainford, Helen Maher, Assumpta McCormack and Mary Ryan. In response to the Vatican II call for collaboration with the laity and to ensure their health care facilities were supported by the best possible governance structures, the Sisters resolved at their 1983 Chapter<sup>1</sup> to reconsider the way in which their health care ministry was structured. Following much prayer and consultation among the Sisters of St John of God, a gradual process of restructuring started to evolve.

A group of Mercy Sisters from Detroit, Washington visited St John of God Subiaco Hospital in 1985 and spoke of the amalgamated Catholic health care systems pioneered in America, which the Sisters decided warranted further study through a visit.

A visit to Mercy International Health Services led the Sisters to invite the international health consulting organisation to assist with a review of their situation in Australia. Mercy International accepted, offering the services of Sr Mary Maurita Sengelaub RSM.

<sup>1</sup> A Chapter is a meeting of all the leader representatives of the Sisters of St John of God where they look at where they have been and think about where they are going as well as elect the next leadership team. It could be loosely termed a strategic planning session.



Sr Maurita was described by those who met her as an exceptional woman, full of courage and vision. She had served as health adviser to the President of the United States of America, and later received recognition at the highest level in America for her lifetime contribution to health care in that country. There was no doubt she made a significant and valuable contribution to the St John of God review.

In 1987, Province Leader Sr Verna Haugh and her council made a decision to investigate the creation of a multi-hospital system for their nine Australian hospitals to sustain their ministry into the future. To achieve this, they formed a steering committee under the leadership of Sr Maurita.

The committee, in 1988, recommended the incorporation of a new civil entity into which the Sisters' health care ministry would be transferred and managed by a centralised corporate executive.

### IMAGES

Above: Members of the 1986 Provincial Leadership Team, from left to right: Sr Cecilia Masterson, Treasurer (seated), Sr Verna Haugh, Province Leader (standing), and Sr Assumption Neary, Sr Verna Haugh's Councillor (standing), pictured with Sr Mary Maurita Sengelaub (Mercy International Health Services).

**Opposite page top:** *Sr Teresa Conneely, also a member of the 1986 Provincial Leadership Team.* 

**Opposite page below:** Sr Columba Howard, also a member of the 1986 Provincial Leadership Team.



A new Board with specified governance responsibilities and authorities would oversee the entire ministry, and the canonical sponsorship of this new entity would remain with the Sisters of St John of God.

This approach was chosen to reap the benefits of a strengthened management structure and to spread the resources available at the larger hospitals over all facilities, facilitating a focus on improving health care delivery to all patients.

St John of God Health Care Inc was incorporated on 20 September 1989 and responsibility for the Sisters' hospital, pathology and radiology operations was transferred to this new entity.



The Sisters appointed an executive team of four to manage the new entity, comprising a Chief Executive Officer, Finance Director, Director of Projects and Director of Mission, and then subsequently appointed a Governing Board.

While the formation of St John of God Health Care supported the ongoing continuation of their health care ministry, the Sisters foresaw a time when they would not have the capacity to exercise effective sponsorship over St John of God Health Care.

The then Province Leader, Sr Pat Doyle, appointed two lay Trustees to St John of God Health Care in 2000, replacing two of the six Sister Trustees and so began the separation of the Province Leadership Team from the Trustees. Sr Doyle tasked the Trustees to recommend a solution for the future Church sponsorship of St John of God Health Care.

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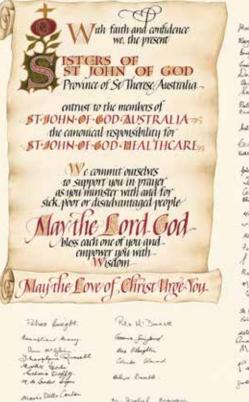
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### establishing a civil and canon law entity - also known as a public juridic person - that would become the sponsor of the ministry. The civil entity, called St John of God Australia Ltd, was incorporated in 2003 and subsequently conferred by the Bishops of Perth, making it part of the Church and thereby permitted to undertake apostolic works in the name of the Church.

The Trustees, through a Collaborative Options Group formed to investigate various options, recommended

The Sisters, on receiving approval from Rome, formally transferred canonical ownership and responsibility for St John of God Health Care Inc from themselves to St John of God Australia Ltd, signing a large scroll to acknowledge their blessing of the transfer.

### IMAGES

Above: The scroll that was signed by all the Sisters of St John of God to acknowledge their blessing of the transfer of the sponsorship of the St John of God Health Care ministry to St John of God Australia Ltd on 7 October 2004.

**Opposite page:** The first National Executive Team, from left to right, were Director of Mission Sr Eugenia Brennan, Chief Executive Officer Mr Tim McDonald, Director of Projects Mr Roger Veary, and Finance Director Mr Don Good.



A special celebration was held on 7 October 2004 formally launching St John of God Australia Ltd and acknowledging the responsibility entrusted to its members.

As a member of St John of God Australia Ltd, the Sisters of St John of God share sponsorship of the ministry with other members, being Bishops within the dioceses in which St John of God Health Care operates and the Brothers of St John of God.

By forming St John of God Australia Ltd the Sisters created the means for their ministry to live on as part of the Catholic Church.

### IMAGES

Above: The Ritual of Commitment of the representatives of the members on the occasion of the launch of St John of God Australia Ltd on 7 October 2004. Standing (from left to right): Sr Helena Lavelle, Sr Mary Rowsome, Bishop Donald Sproxton, Archbishop Barry James Hickey, Bishop Gerard Holohan, Monsignor John Barden, Sr Assumption Neary, Sr Eugenia Brenan (at the lectern), Sr Camille Poidevin, Sr Isobel Moran and Mr Herbie O'Flynn.

**Opposite page top left:** *Sisters of St John of God pictured at the celebration of the launch of St John of God Australia Ltd.* 

Opposite page top right: Sr Isobel Moran, Province Leader Sisters of St John of God, and Sr Mary Rowsome, Congregational Leader Sisters of St John of God, lead representatives of the members of the newly launched St John of God Australia Ltd at the formal celebration on 7 October 2004.



The promise made by the Trustees of the newly formed St John of God Australia Ltd:

As Trustees of St John of God Health Care we now make public commitment to all the duties of this office.

Together with all St John of God caregivers we will work toward the achievement of the Vision for St John of God Health Care and ongoing fidelity to the healing mission of Jesus.





ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE

## LEADERSHIP

Theologian Walter Brueggemann said: "What God does first and best and most is to trust us with our moment in history. God trusts us to do what must be done for the sake of God's whole community."

St John of God Health Care has been blessed with leaders who have been the right people for their moment of history.





F our Group Chief Executive Officers have led the organisation over the 25 year period to 2014: Mr Tim McDonald from 1989 to 1994, Dr Jim Breheny from 1994 to 1997, Mr Ivor Davies from 1998 to 2002 and Dr Michael Stanford who, in 2014, has held the position since 2002.

When Tim McDonald commenced in 1989 he encountered many challenges in establishing a unified system amidst the many changes occurring.

Dr Jim Breheny and Mr Ivor Davies led the group during difficult economic circumstances for private health care operators and during the time Sisters were withdrawing from key positions in the hospitals.

Dr Michael Stanford has presided during a period of opportunity and more favourable financial circumstances in terms of government support for private health insurance. Together with a stable leadership team, Michael has led the organisation through tremendous growth and transformation.

### IMAGES

Above: An early meeting of St John of God Health Care leaders in the original corporate office located at the Sisters' convent.

Opposite page above: Sr Mary Kiely was the inaugural Chair of the St John of God Health Care Board, a role she fulfilled from June 1990 to August 1991. Sr Mary, a member of the Congregational Leadership Team in 2014, has a teaching and social work background.

Opposite page below: Sr Verna Haugh, instrumental in the decision to establish St John of God Health Care, was the inaugural Chair of the Trustees of St John of God Health Care, holding this position from February 1989 to July 1990. Although St John of God Health Care was only incorporated in September 1989, Trustees were appointed from February 1989 to establish the new organisation.





Each of these leaders showed courage and foresight as they steered an authentic course through the sometimes challenging social, ethical and commercial environments.

### Establishing a unified system

One of the first big changes to take place after St John of God Health Care was established was the introduction of two new layers of governance between the hospitals and the Provincial Leadership Team: a Governing Board and a National Executive Team. The new governance structure comprised a mix of Sisters of St John of God and lay leaders.

It was envisaged that lay leaders would bring a range of skills and experience to build a prosperous future for the organisation while Sisters would mentor them in the Mission. There were inevitable challenges and tensions, with a new order finding its way while some were dealing with a sense of loss and grieving as change occurred rapidly around them.

The transition to a new system needed to be managed and navigated and there were many operational challenges. The most pressing of these was ensuring the financial viability of the new organisation. The number of people opting to be covered by private health insurance was very low, equating to around 23 per cent of the population, due in part to the Federal Government policies of the 1980s. This diminished the demand for private health care services and created a difficult economic environment for private hospital operators.

### Courageous vision through difficult times

In spite of difficult economic conditions and uncertainty about the future of private health care, St John of God Health Care leaders took visionary decisions to embark on a capital investment program from 1992 to 1999 that would see the regeneration of its services.

The Geraldton and Warrnambool Hospitals were rebuilt in 1992 and 1994 respectively, and St John of God Bunbury Hospital was relocated to a new site collocated with the Bunbury Public Hospital in 1998. The Rivervale Hospital was relocated to Murdoch where a new hospital was built in 1994. Significant redevelopments were undertaken at Geelong and Subiaco Hospitals in 1998 to expand the services that could be provided.

As well as the physical regeneration of the services, the individual hospitals' pathology services in Western Australia and Victoria were formed into independently operating pathology services – one in Western Australia and one in Victoria – before being amalgamated in 1999 to form a single pathology service. While controversial at the time this decision led the way to establishing community based pathology services.

These courageous decisions were rewarded when the Commonwealth Government, under the then Prime Minister of Australia John Howard, introduced Lifetime Health Cover in 2000 and the number of people taking out private health insurance cover started to significantly increase. Having established a solid infrastructure, the organisation was well placed to meet a renewed demand for private health care services.





### IMAGES

- 1 Mr Tim McDonald was the first Group Chief Executive Officer of St John of God Health Care. He served from September 1989 to January 1994 at a time when the newly established organisation was finding its way amidst great change.
- 2 Sr Assumption Neary took over the role of Chair of the Trustees of St John of God Health Care from Sr Verna Haugh in August 1990 and held this position until December 1992. She returned to Ballarat Hospital in February 1994 as Mission leader and continued in that position until 2000, when she was appointed as a Trustee until October 2004.
- 3 Dr Jim Breheny took over the reins as Group Chief Executive Officer in August 1994, serving until February 1997 during what were difficult economic times for private health care operators.
- 4 Justice Toni Kennedy was Chair of the St John of God Health Care Board from September 1991 to October 1992.
- 5 Sr Ann Bannon was Chair of the Trustees of St John of God Health Care from December 1992 until September 1993. She also worked at St John of God Brighton Hospital for a number of years.
- 6 Mr Terry O'Connor, a prominent lawyer in Perth and former Chancellor of the University of Notre Dame served as Chair of the St John of God Health Care Board from February 1993 to May 1995. [Photograph courtesy of The University of Notre Dame]



Health Care cared for 54,000 people.



### IMAGES

- 1 Sr Corona Gainford was Chair of the Trustees of St John of God Health Care from September 1993 to September 1996.
- 2 Prof Michael Quinlan joined the St John of God Health Care Board in July 1990, serving as Chair from June 1995 until he resigned in December 1998. Michael assumed the leadership of the Board at a challenging time, helping to stabilise the governance of the ministry. Michael was also one of the inaugural lay Trustees of St John of God Health Care, from October 2004 to December 2011.
- 3 Sr Patricia Doyle was Chair of the Trustees of St John of God Health Care from September 1996 to December 1999. From January 2000, there was a move by the Sisters to separate the Trustees from the Provincial Leadership Team and Sr Pat was the last Chair of the Trustees to concurrently hold the role of Provincial Leader of the Sisters of St John of God.
- 4 Mr Ivor Davies joined the organisation as Group Chief Executive Officer in July 1998. In March 2000 the Group Chief Executive Officer role also became an executive Board member role. After resigning as Group Chief Executive Officer in February 2002, Ivor Davies remained on the Board as a nonexecutive member until December 2011.
- 5 Sr Isobel Moran, the first non-Provincial Leader Chair of the Trustees of St John of God Health Care, led the Trustees for seven years from January 2000 to February 2007. During her tenure as Chair of the Trustees, Sr Isobel was instrumental in the formation of St John of God Australia Limited in 2004, the means by which the Sisters ensured the continuation of St John of God Health Care as a Catholic health care ministry.
- 6 Dr Michael Stanford, Group Chief Executive Officer in 2014, is pictured here soon after he was appointed in February 2002. Michael has led the organisation through a period of tremendous growth and transformation.





Twenty five years ago 4,500 babies were born at St John of God Health Care Hospitals. Today we welcome more than 9,500 babies into the world each year.

### A clear vision for the Mission in the twenty-first century

The Trustees articulated a clear Vision for the organisation in 2001 that detailed how the group would stay faithful to its Mission of service to the community. This helped guide strategic thinking and planning and continues to be renewed every five years as the organisation strives to stay authentic.

A sense of unity and identity started to strengthen internally and when the first Annual Report was published in 2002 people started to gain more insight into the story of the whole organisation.

### Growing to meet the needs of the community and ensure sustainability

From the strong base that was established in the 1990's and in light of the potential to grow the Mission, the leaders formulated a growth strategy for the organisation based on three important principles: to respond to identified community need, to protect and enhance the current services and to help keep the Catholic health care sector as a vibrant contributor to the community's health.

To successfully achieve growth, the organisation needed to be operationally effective and delivering best practice. Benchmarking against for-profit private hospital and pathology operators was introduced, doctor, patient and staff satisfaction surveys were conducted and all services improved their accreditation results. Patient safety and clinical risk were given additional resources.

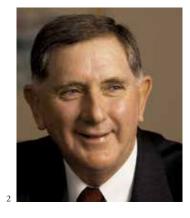
Networking with others in the Catholic sector was strengthened, professional leadership roles were introduced in nursing and medical services and the importance of links with universities and other education facilities that would train the next generation of clinicians was emphasised. Opportunities to grow soon presented themselves, resulting in the acquisition of Berwick Hospital in 2003 and Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital in 2004. Further growth occurred when Bendigo Hospital in Victoria was purchased through an effective collaboration with Mercy Health in 2005. The Group significantly increased its pathology profile with the purchase of PathCare Consulting Pathologists in Victoria in 2004.

Recognising that governments and health care providers had acknowledged a critical need to improve and augment mental health services, St John of God Health Care purchased Pinelodge Clinic in 2004 using funds held in abeyance from the sale of Brighton Hospital for future mental health initiatives.

Further cementing the vibrancy of the Catholic sector in service provision, a historic agreement was reached in 2007 with the Hospitaller Order of the Brothers of St John of God to take on responsibility for the operation of their Australian and New Zealand services. These services included two psychiatric hospitals in New South Wales, at Burwood and Richmond, disability services in Victoria known as Accord, and New Zealand's Hauora Trust's health and disability, and community, youth and child services. All of these represented new and important service areas for the group.

The growth in demand for health care services in the home led to the home nursing services previously run by the hospitals being brought together into one division in 2009, known as Health Choices.





St John of God Health Care employed around 2,500 caregivers in 1989. Over 25 years the number of caregivers we employ has grown to almost 10,000.

### IMAGES

- Brother Joseph Smith OH served as a member of the St John of God Health Care Board from January 1996 to December 2007, during which time the organisation reached a historic agreement to take on responsibility for the operation of the Hospitaller Order of the Brothers of St John of God's Australian and New Zealand services. Brother Joseph was appointed a Trustee of St John of God Health Care from January 2008 until he resigned in December 2012.
- 2 Mr Don Good was the first lay person to be appointed Chair of the Trustees of St John of God Health Care, holding this role for four years from March 2007 to January 2011. Don has a long association with the Sisters of St John of God. He worked as Finance and Corporate Services Director at St John of God Subiaco Hospital for 12 years after holding a number of roles since commencing as the hospital's accountant in May 1977. As Finance Director and a member of the four-strong National Executive Team of the newly incorporated St John of God Health Care appointed in 1990, Don's financial expertise and dedication were instrumental in ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the organisation. For 25 years, Don witnessed first-hand the maturing and growth of the organisation and its people.

St John of God Foundation was brought into the group in 2010 to allow a focus on its core activity of fund raising to support service delivery by St John of God Health Care.

In 2014, St John of God Health Care purchased Mercy Hospital Mt Lawley from MercyCare, benefitting both organisations and importantly strengthening Catholic health care in Western Australia by ensuring the continuation of the Mission.

### Embedding the Mission

Early into the new millennium it became clear that all leadership roles would eventually be held by lay people. The need to embed the Mission at all levels of the organisation was recognised and significant investment in formation developed, along with a planned approach to formation for senior leaders. The organisation provided support to senior executives to undertake the Australian Catholic University's Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Catholic Culture, a qualification that was developed in conjunction with Catholic Health Australia.

A Leadership Profile that articulates the capabilities demonstrated in leading the Mission formed the basis of a comprehensive approach to leadership and management development. Mission mentoring and Ethics programs were also developed.





Three hundred and thirty volunteers were an integral part of the organisation's services when St John of God Health Care was first formed. In 2014, we are blessed with more than 1,400 dedicated volunteers.

### IMAGES

- Mr Clive Macknay served on the St John of God Health Care Board from January 1990 to December 1997. He was later appointed Chair of the Board from January 1999 to December 2003, applying his prudent, clear thinking during a period of significant stabilisation of the management and viability of the organisation. Clive, a Trustee in 2014, joined the Trustees in April 2009 and served as Chair from February 2011 to December 2013.
- 2 Mr Tony Howarth joined the St John of God Health Care Board in May 2001. He was appointed as Chair in January 2004 and in 2014 still held this position. Tony's expertise and vast experience in governance over a wide range of commercial and not-for-profit organisations has strengthened St John of God Health Care's leadership capacity.
- 3 Ms Eva Skira was appointed Chair of the Trustees in January 2014. Eva's long-standing association with and knowledge of the organisation through her tenure as a Board member from March 1999 to February 2012 stand her in good stead to lead the Trustees into the future.

### Inclusion of the poor and marginalised

A strategic approach to the provision of services for the poor and the marginalised was developed in 2002 with an emphasis on direct service provision in partnership with communities and other likeminded organisations. Strategies and services were developed in the areas of mental health, alcohol and other drugs, aboriginal health, rural health and international health. Nursing, pathology and community health development programs in East Timor were progressively established from 2004.

Building on these initial experiences the strategic approach was reframed and strengthened in 2007. A deeper focus on two key areas for service delivery was identified: children from birth to four and young people aged between 12 and 25. The principles of early intervention and capacity building were adopted as key foundations for these services. International health remained a priority, including programs such as the Tongan Twinning program established in 1992.

The organisation furthered its commitment to mental health, establishing eight Raphael Centres to support infant and maternal mental health. St John of God Health Care is now recognised internationally for its medical research in the field of post natal and infant mental health.

Other mental health initiatives included a community based counselling centre in Fremantle in 2004, a community psychology service in Ballarat in 2003 and another service in Ballarat in 2010 to support those with dual diagnosis of substance abuse and mental health needs.

### Partnering and new frontiers

In recent years, St John of God Health Care leaders have made a sustained commitment to partner with governments, organisations and educational institutions that have a shared concern for health and wellbeing, in order to effectively and efficiently meet the health care needs of the communities the organisation serves.

Active participation in health and medical research to deliver improved outcomes for patients and their families is an important part of meeting the call of the Mission. St John of God Health Care is significantly expanding its focus on knowledge creation and evidence based best practices to complement service delivery.

The organisation made an important step into the delivery of public health care services when the decision was made to tender for a public private partnership contract with the Western Australian Government to design, build and operate the St John of God Midland Public Hospital. St John of God Health Care was successful in winning the bid and the hospital is due to open in 2015. A private hospital being developed by St John of God Health Care on the Midland site will further enhance health care services for the community.

St John of God Health Care has grown enormously over the last 25 years to meet the needs of the communities it serves, with an emerging and deepening understanding of the importance of forming relationships and partnering with others in doing so. Underpinning the holistic growth of St John of God Health Care services is the vital and integral ongoing development and formation of its leaders in understanding the Catholic story and what it truly means to serve the sick and the vulnerable.





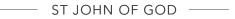
- ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE -

# SERVICES

When St John of God Health Care reflects on Mission it is not only what it is seeking to achieve but also the environment and relationships in which that goal is achieved.



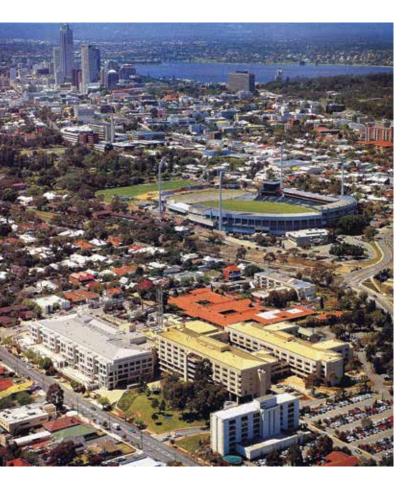
SERVICES



# SUBIACO HOSPITAL

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 1989

St John of God Subiaco Hospital has a rich history of service and hospitality in Western Australia. Our challenge is to ensure we honour our past and create an exciting future.



E stablished by the pioneering Sisters of St John of God in 1898, Subiaco is an iconic hospital in Western Australia. As well as being the oldest hospital in the St John of God Health Care group it is also the largest and has touched many lives through its service and care for over a century.

Its reputation for high quality care and the latest medical and surgical technology ensures the hospital is always a hive of activity and highly sought after by doctors and patients.

Over the last 25 years, in keeping pace with medical advances, Subiaco Hospital has undergone significant expansion and redevelopment to provide a diversity of new services and enhanced care facilities for the community, thereby retaining its status as the group's flagship hospital and a leader in health care delivery in Western Australia.

The Medical Clinic, built in 1998, expanded the hospital's operating capacity from nine to 12 theatres and provided specialist consulting suites.





### IMAGES

**Top:** Subiaco Hospital has a proud culture and its caregivers are committed to building team unity on the hospital wards. Pictured, from left to right, are caregivers Ashleigh Maskew, Sam Pearce, Leanne Mullins and Jennifer Fowler.

Above: The Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre, located on the grounds of St John of God Subiaco Hospital.

**Opposite page:** Aerial photograph of St John of God Subiaco Hospital circa 1989.

From 2004 the hospital would build more operating theatres, catheter laboratories, new endoscopy and pathology laboratories and expand its intensive care services.

These advanced, high-end health facilities would further entrench Subiaco Hospital as a leading private hospital in Australia.

The Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre opened in 2008 on the grounds of the Subiaco Hospital. Demand in this area of heath care grew significantly during the last 25 years. The centre brought together many of the elements involved in cancer care including oncology, haematology and palliative care and combined them on one campus. An important component of the centre is the complementary therapy service, provided by SolarisCare.

Funded through generous donations from the community and principal benefactor Jack Bendat, after whom the Centre is named, the Centre is also committed to ongoing research into cancer treatments and outcomes.



My first operation in private practice, in 1990, was an old-fashioned open gall bladder removal performed at St John of God Subiaco Hospital. In every aspect of my association with the Subiaco Hospital since then I've always been aware of its deep commitment to the healing mission upon which it was established over a century ago. The legacy of the Sisters remains indelibly soaked into the fabric of the hospital and continues to influence and inspire me as a doctor.

Dr Michael Levitt

A Nursing and Midwifery Training Centre was developed in partnership with the University of Notre Dame. This interactive training facility enhances the learning experience for student midwives. The dedicated learning environment, where students can actively participate in and observe all facets of midwifery, is supported by university practitioner scholars and clinical midwifery coordinators from the hospital.

St John of God Subiaco Hospital commenced the highly specialised field of cardiothoracic surgery in 2012. Talented surgeons Jurgen Passage and Chris Merry expressed their commitment to the new service when it started. Chris said he was "excited to be a part of a new and dynamic unit doing cutting-edge cardiothoracic surgery."



### Ante-natal education sessions at St John of God Subiaco Hospital focus

on preparing parents and grandparents for childbirth. Betty Maroney attended these classes as she prepared for her daughter Louise to give birth to twins. Betty, who gave birth to her own three children at Subiaco Hospital, found the classes very helpful.

### IMAGES

**Right:** Sr Denise Maloney (left) with Betty Maroney (right) and Betty's daughter Louise Treadwell with twins Alessia and Georgia Treadwell. [Photograph courtesy of the Community Newspaper Group]

**Below:** Urological surgeon Justin Vivian performs robotic surgery on a patient at the hospital using the new model Si da Vinci Robot.

**Opposite page top:** *Dr Michael Levitt (left) with former Chief Executive Officer Subiaco Hospital Dr Shane Kelly.* 

**Opposite page below:** *Cardiothoracic surgeons Jurgen Passage and Chris Merry.* 





In 2007, St John of God Subiaco Hospital became the first hospital in Western Australia to use a robot for surgical procedures. The benefits of the da Vinci Robot are less post-operative pain, less scarring, quicker recovery time, less blood loss and therefore lower chance of cross infection and a reduced infection risk. It also reduces the technical challenges typically associated with keyhole or laparoscopic surgery.

In 2013, the hospital upgraded the robot to the new version, the Si da Vinci Robot.



St John of God Hospital has not just been my place of work over the last 37 years,

it has been where many of my life experiences and wonderful friendships have been enjoyed. The Sisters originally put their trust in me and during my time here I've been given the opportunity to develop my clinical and management skills in a supported environment. The Sisters' guidance and high standards along the way have always set an outstanding example for me to follow.

Nurse Manager, Catherine Bolam

Staff Development Coordinator Rosalie Nodwell has played an integral role in coordinating the undergraduate nurse clinical education programs for St John of God Subiaco Hospital for 16 years. Each year, Rosalie and her team of clinical facilitators provide training for about 800 students from various educational institutions with which the hospital has established partnerships.

Rosalie played an important role in 2012 in supervising students from the Marr Mooditj Training Inc, an indigenous training college that is part of the Clontarf Aboriginal College.

The award-winning Horizon House Dianella service responds to the needs of homeless pregnant young women by providing them with stable accommodation and support during and after the birth of their child, and assists them in finding independent living arrangements. The women, supported by a full-time social worker and live-in carers, have the opportunity to join in parent education and life skills programs.





### IMAGES

Left: Raphael Centre Subiaco, established in 2002, was the first service of its kind to be established by St John of God Health Care, providing perinatal and infant mental health services to families across the Perth metropolitan area.

Opposite page top: Catherine Bolam's graduation ceremony in 1979. From left to right: Catherine Bolam, the then Premier of Western Australia Sir Charles Court and Sr Vitalis.

Opposite page below: Staff Development Coordinator Rosalie Nodwell.

### Sonia Tanham is a longserving volunteer with

St John of God Subiaco Hospital. As a patient at the hospital 30 years ago, Sonia was invited by Sr Kathleen Connolly to join the first volunteer meeting where she agreed to be their Volunteer Coordinator. Thirty years on the group, through fund raising stalls organised by Sonia, actively raises around \$20,000 a year for charities and communities in need.



SERVICES



### **BALLARAT HOSPITAL** PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 1989

Established in 1915, the hospital received the gift of caring from the Sisters of St John of God. With the sense of this gift and its responsibility, we continue their healing mission in supporting our regional community and surrounds.





**S** t John of God Ballarat Hospital was established by the Sisters almost 100 years ago in response to a request from the Bishops of Ballarat to provide health care services in their diocese.

The hospital underwent a refurbishment just before becoming part of the St John of God Health Care group in 1989, and has grown and developed further over the years in response to changing community needs.

Over the last two decades the hospital has kept pace with breakthroughs in medical treatment and technology yet always kept true to its heritage and community. The hospital is a greatly valued partner in the delivery of health care and education in the regional city of Ballarat.

In 2001 a clinical linkway was built over Mair Street, connecting St John of God Ballarat Hospital and Ballarat Health Services Base Hospital. As well as making it quicker and easier to transfer patients, the link also created ease of access for medical staff working in both hospitals and is symbolic of the cooperative relationship between the two hospitals to deliver comprehensive health care.





**Top:** Sisters Celine Glavin, Assumption Neary, Lucilla Prendiville, Teresa Biggins, Euphrasia Nihill and Barbara Matthews (seated) cut the cake at the hospital's 90th birthday celebrations in 2005.

Above: Former Chief Executive Officer John Fogarty, Director of Mission Maureen Waddington and the Most Reverend Peter J Connors DD DCL, Bishop of Ballarat at the Blessing of the newly redeveloped hospital.

**Opposite page top:** Sr Teresina Connolly was the last Sister to hold the position of Chief Executive Officer at Ballarat. She retired in 1990.

**Opposite page below:** The new clinical linkway joining the two hospitals in 2001.

Ballarat's Chapel of Christ the King was demolished to make way for the Ballarat Austin Radiation Oncology Centre that opened in late 2002. This important initiative gave patients from Ballarat and surrounding areas access to cancer services close to home. Jointly funded by St John of God Health Care, Ballarat Health Services and public money previously held in trust, and run in conjunction with Radiation Oncology Victoria, this service was relocated to Ballarat Health Services in 2013 to form part of the Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre.

A major redevelopment completed in 2009 transformed the hospital and started a new chapter in its rich history – delivering contemporary health care services and facilities.

The changes included the introduction of a private emergency department and a striking new entrance to the hospital.



Less visible developments included new highend cardiac and vascular angiography suites and refurbishment of the five operating theatres, one becoming a digital theatre from which images are sent around the world.

Ballarat Hospital's School of Nursing, which opened in 1958 and graduated 900 students during its time, closed towards the end of 1990 after the Australian Nursing Federation decision that all future nursing education would be university-based. The hospital has maintained its commitment to teaching, and nursing students still gain their clinical experience at the hospital.

#### IMAGES

Above: The hydrotherapy pool was part of the major redevelopment in 2009, and has become an important component of the hospital's patient rehabilitation programs.

**Right:** Professor Greg Craven, Vice Chancellor, Australian Catholic University and Michael Krieg, Chief Executive Officer Ballarat Hospital at the opening of the clinical nursing school on 6 September 2013.



#### The late Jack Borbidge was a

patient at St John of God Ballarat Hospital who donated \$250,000 to the hospital in honour of his late wife, Millie, who was also treated at the hospital. In honouring Jack's request, his bequest was used to employ a nurse educator to support graduate nurses on the oncology wards. This led to an increase in the number of nurse educators employed by the hospital over the years, and subsequently to the opening of a nursing clinical school – a partnership between the hospital and Australian Catholic University.





The Ballarat Rural Clinical School for medical students opened in 2011 in the hospital's historic Bailey's Mansion. It is an innovative partnership between The University of Notre Dame Australia's School of Medicine Sydney and St John of God Health Care, with support funding from the Australian Government. The school provides education and training for medical students in a clinical and rural setting with the aim of increasing the availability and viability of Australian rural health services.

#### IMAGES

Above: St John of God Ballarat Hospital Quality and Development Coordinator Travis Gaylor is pictured here with second year nursing students Victoria Walter and Erin Howman. [Photograph courtesy of The Courier, Ballarat]

**Left**: The inaugural group of Ballarat Rural Clinical school students on the stairway in historic Bailey's Mansion.



#### Bloomsbury House, which

supports disadvantaged youth who are experiencing mental health problems and may also have substance use issues, commissioned local artist Josh Muir to create a welcoming and engaging entrance for the youth who come along to the service.

Josh also shares a personal story that is similar to the clients that may present at Bloomsbury House.

Josh's mental health deteriorated after becoming addicted to cannabis, which he started smoking socially with his friends. He sought the help of mental health services and attended detox and rehabilitation to overcome his addiction.

Josh' artwork at Bloomsbury House is bright and vibrant and conveys a message of hope.

The Pomegranate House Community Psychology Service is a partnership between St John of God Health Care, Centacare, the Ballarat and District Division of General Practice and the University of Ballarat, providing mental health services to children and young adults and their families, with priority given to people usually unable to access services because of financial constraints.

Since 1992, St John of God Ballarat Hospital has supported a Twinning Program with Vaiola Hospital in the South Pacific Kingdom of Tonga. The program offers practical support, equipment and education to a hospital that was poorly equipped and maintained, and struggled to provide basic health care. More than 100 Ballarat caregivers have visited Vaiola Hospital and 100 Vaiola Hospital staff have visited Ballarat Hospital.







**Every Sunday since 2001**, Ballarat hospital has provided a roast meal, dessert and a take-away food parcel for an evening meal in support of UnitingCare's Breezeway Meals for the Homeless program. Up to 80 people, from newborn babies to the elderly, are provided a healthy meal each week. This rewarding alliance is supported by the hospital volunteer group and caregivers from different areas across the hospital.

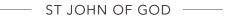
#### IMAGES

**Top:** Intensive Care Unit Nurse Unit Manager John Macdonald educating Vaiola Hospital intensive care and theatre staff.

Left: Caregivers Teresa Bardwell and Claire Huntington serve meals to the homeless as part of UnitingCare's Breezeway Meals for the Homeless program.

**Opposite page below:** Pomegranate House provides mental health services to children and young adults.

SERVICES



# **BUNBURY HOSPITAL**

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 1989

We are proud to continue to build on the legacy we inherited from the Sisters who, more than 85 years ago, gave the people of the South-West the option for health care and community services close to home.





S t John of God Bunbury Hospital was the first hospital founded on the initiative of the Sisters to alleviate the added stress of travel for patients from the country, by providing them with care closer to home.

As health care has been able to deliver greater hope for patients the hospital has expanded and redeveloped accordingly, always mindful of the need to provide a broad range of services and local care to the growing community of south Western Australia.

The tight-knit community in this regional city has always been an integral part of St John of God Bunbury Hospital. When a fund raising drive to support a major redevelopment was held in 2013 the community showed its overwhelming support for the hospital by contributing \$5 million in donations.





Top: The hospital welcomes many new babies into the local community each year.

Above: The St John of God Bunbury Hospital chapel is a beautiful place for somewhere to talk or reflect.

**Opposite page top:** The original Bunbury Hospital was opened by the Sisters in 1927 and underwent several extensions.

**Opposite page below:** The approach to the new St John of God Bunbury Hospital as it looked in 2014.

In 1996, the St John of God Health Care Board committed to building a new hospital in Bunbury on a shared site with the State Government's public hospital. This was the first cooperative development of its kind in Australia, where independently owned and managed public and private hospitals were built side by side on one site, making the best use of limited health care resources for optimal patient care.

The new St John of God Bunbury Hospital opened in March 1999 and subsequently expanded to deliver public health care under contract with the State in palliative care, oncology and renal services. In 2007 the hospital would again undergo a redevelopment to increase bed capacity and to provide two additional theatres, and new palliative care and obstetric wards.





A Comprehensive Cancer Centre opened in 2013 which meant patients no longer needed to travel the 300 km to Perth for diagnostics and treatment. This was supported by an expanded oncology unit and self-catering accommodation, built in partnership with aged and community care providers Bethanie Group, so that families not local to Bunbury would be able to stay together during the course of cancer treatment.

A new coronary care unit and angiography suite for public and private patients, commissioned from State funding under the Royalties for Regions program, was also completed in 2013.

#### IMAGES

Top: Bunbury caregivers work as a team in providing health care to the local community.

**Above:** The Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Tanya Plibersek, officially opened the South West Comprehensive Cancer Centre on 1 May 2013. At a recent clinical pastoral education graduation ceremony at St John of God Bunbury Hospital, 80 people gathered in the chapel where seven pastoral interns graduated from a training program that included one St John of God caregiver and six community representatives.

Pastoral care gives expression to St John of God Health Care's commitment to holistic care. Pastoral practitioners are professionally trained to relate to patients and their families through a specific intentional relationship. They seek to clarify their spiritual needs in the midst of life events, such as illness, suffering, disability, birth and death. Practitioners enable people to work through issues and restore integrity and peace, which can assist with their healing and recovery.

As a ministry of the Catholic church, providing an education program to a wider community connects St John of God Health Care across dioceses and across denominations, helping to reinforce that connection as the organisation equips the laity to carry on the works begun by the religious.



Worsley's Sharon McDonald receives a certificate of appreciation from St John of God Bunbury Hospital's Mark Grime and St John of God Foundation's Josephine Board outside the Worsley Alumina room.

### Worsley backs cancer housing

A NEW accommodation and wellness centre for South West cancer patients has received a boost from a hefty \$75,000 donation by BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina

The St John of God South West Cancer Accommodation Centre in Dalyellup provides housing for regional patients and their families for up to six weeks while they receive cancer treatment. The 15 self-contained motelstyle units are part of an integrated cancer service in Bunbury providing specialist services to patients from the South West, Great Southern and Wheatbelt regions.

Worsley asset president Ricus Grimbeek said his company was committed to promoting healthy communities and helping those in need.

"This new facility will allow people living in our region to remain close to home and their support network of family and friends while receiving treatment," Mr Grimbeek said. St John of God Bunbury Hospital chief executive officer Mark Grime said travel, accommodation and being away from family were often barriers to regional people receiving cancer treatment.

Mr Grime said regional patients deserved the same options as metropolitan patients accessing cancer services.

"Worsley Alumina's generous donation shows it is committed to supporting local and regional communities," he said.



#### IMAGES

Above: Sharon McDonald of BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina receives a certificate of appreciation from St John of God Bunbury Hospital Chief Executive Officer Mark Grime and St John of God Foundation Chief Executive Officer Josephine Board. The company was among many local businesses that supported the fundraising campaign. [Newspaper article courtesy of Harvey Reporter, 2 July 2013]

Left: Bunbury clinical pastoral education training graduates for 2013.

In Bunbury, St John of God Health Care has a long heritage of working with and helping people within the community in close cooperation with local health providers, government and others to deliver diverse and evolving programs that cater for varied health and wellbeing needs.

The South West Community Drug Service team works with other mental health, medical and health providers to help people with problems related to alcohol and drug use. The team gives resources, education and confidential counselling to individuals, groups, families, adults, young people and children throughout the South-West.

St John of God Bunbury Hospital is indebted to its 150 amazing volunteers who contribute an invaluable and highly appreciated service to the hospital and the wider community. Volunteers are an integral part of the holistic care offered by St John of God Bunbury Hospital.





#### IMAGES

Above: Volunteers Joy Letch (left) and Bernice Williams (right) participated in an event to promote volunteering at the hospital.

Left: Members of the multidisciplinary South West Community Drug Service team.

Opposite page top: Andrew McLean, pictured on the right, started volunteering through the Volunteer South West Enhancing Access Program, tailored for clients with disabilities. Andrew has teamed up with volunteer Betty Stannard, left, and together they make a great team on the wards, attending to the flowers, selling newspapers and chatting to patients and their families.

**Opposite page below:** It was a sad day for Bunbury when the last Bunbury Sisters of St John of God, Sr Bridie, Sr Kilian and Sr Leonie, retired to Perth in January 2009.

#### I'm proud to say I'm a

**volunteer** at St John of God Bunbury Hospital. My work is a very special part of my life. Working at St John's has given me a purpose, a new life. Knowing I've tried to make a difference, to even only one person. To see a smile, to give a helping hand, to comfort, to just listen – I feel contented, happy. Yes, some days are busy and tiring but the reward of, hopefully, a job well done is my reward.

Volunteer, Betty Stannard





#### The legacy handed down from the Sisters of St John of God in bringing the Eucharist to the sick, not only for those in need of physical healing but also spiritual, for me personally is inspiring. I miss the presence of our much loved Sisters, but they are here in spirit nevertheless.

Volunteer, June Buoro

SERVICES



## **GERALDTON HOSPITAL**

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 1989

St John of God Geraldton Hospital, with a long and rich history of health care provision in the Mid-West region, has developed strong ties to its community and the diocese.





In the early 1930s, the Bishop of Geraldton Bishop J. P. O'Collins invited the Sisters to establish a hospital in Geraldton so that communities in the region could access health care services without having to travel 450 km to Perth. St John of God Geraldton Hospital opened in 1935 having been built on a site generously donated to the Sisters by Mr William Burke.

In 1989, the newly appointed St John of God Health Care Board made a decision to rebuild St John of God Geraldton Hospital to provide a modern health care facility for the regional city. The Geraldton community raised a significant \$1.7 million towards construction costs of the new hospital which opened its doors in 1992.

#### IMAGES

**Top:** The original Geraldton Hospital, established by the Sisters in 1935, was replaced by the new hospital opened in 1992.

**Below:** The front entrance of St John of God Geraldton Hospital in 2013.





**Top:** Chief Executive Officer/Director of Nursing Mr Stephen Carmody, in 1992, is proudly displaying the certificate for the hospital's first full 3-year accreditation from the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards.

Above: Watching the 1989 fundraising progress for the new St John of God Geraldton Hospital. The community raised an incredible \$1.7 million towards the cost of building the new hospital. Julie Boschetti, a member of the fundraising committee

established to raise funds to rebuild St John of God Geraldton Hospital, said she got involved because she had given birth to her babies in the old hospital and she also felt that the Mid-West, so far north of Perth, was very lucky to have a private hospital. She believed that modern health care facilities would help attract professional people to Geraldton.



**Right:** Surgeon Mr Martin Hudson performed the first operation in the new hospital building in 1992, assisted by Mrs Meg Quelch, Mrs Glenys Gibney and Mrs Lyn Patten.

Below: Clinical Nurse Penny Van Ast is pictured with Bishop Justin Bianchini at the official opening and Blessing of the hospice unit in 1996.

Opposite page top: The hospital commenced chemotherapy services in 1996. Mrs Judi Blick and Mrs Connie Chadwick-Lim are pictured here caring for patients.

**Opposite page below:** A family spends precious time together in the level 2 special care nursery.



Since the opening of the new hospital, a number of services and facilities have been added, including chemotherapy, hospice, resident specialist centre, a new visiting specialist centre, a level 2 special care nursery, maternity family rooms and expanded ophthalmic services.

In 2003, St John of God Geraldton Hospital in collaboration with Silver Chain and the Western Australian Department of Health established a palliative care service for public and privately insured patients, located at the hospital. The hospice unit is well renowned in the local and wider Mid-West community for the care it offers its patients and their families.



An urgent care clinic operated at the hospital until 2007. After this closed, the hospital established a doctors' after-hours service. A refurbishment in 2008 enabled the expansion of the hospital's radiology service and the introduction of rehabilitation services. Three years later the radiology service opened a magnetic resonance imaging unit on site.

The hospital, the diocese and the Geraldton community celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of St John of God services in Geraldton in 2010. The last-remaining Geraldton-based St John of God Sisters relocated to the Subiaco convent in 2013. A special mass and community celebration hosted by the diocese and St John of God Geraldton Hospital marked this significant occasion.





Left: During the Sisters' farewell mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Geraldton, Sr Pauline O'Connor hands a candle to Chief Executive Officer Mr Paul Dyer as a symbol of the continuation of the Sisters' Mission after their departure.

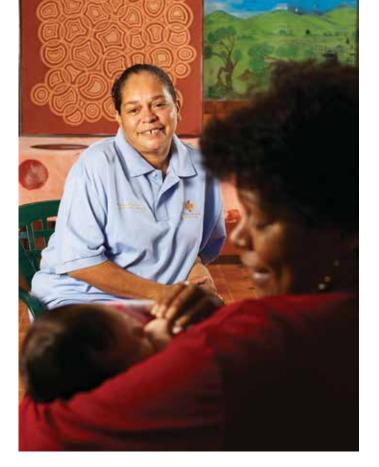
**Below:** Long-serving palliative care volunteer Nicole Behiels (left) pictured with Patient Care Assistant. Sandra Heritage.

**Opposite page top:** *Geraldton Hospital caregivers were instrumental in the establishment in 2004 of the Strong Family, Strong Culture program.* 

### Nicole Behiels has worked as a volunteer for the past

**17 years** in the St John of God Geraldton Hospital palliative care unit. "I've always liked the atmosphere at St John's," she said. "I keep coming back because everyone makes me feel very comfortable, especially the nursing staff. It's a privilege to work for the patients and to feel as though I'm a part of the team."





Geraldton Hospital caregivers were instrumental in the establishment in 2004 of the Strong Family, Strong Culture program, which provided parenting education and support to Aboriginal communities in northern Western Australia. The hospital was an active supporter of the program until the program ceased in 2013.

The Snuggles Mothers Group was born from a gathering in 2008 of like-minded Catholic services' representatives who were keen to work together in supporting families. Still going strong today, this weekly group assists mothers in "finding their feet" through meeting other mums and accessing parenting resources in their community.

The hospital also partners with Centacare to provide parenting classes for mothers of young babies.



#### **Director of Mission Alison**

**Dawson** has worked at the hospital since 1986. Alison said the caregivers, patients and their families made working at Geraldton inspirational.

"The way we care for people here in St John of God Geraldton Hospital is what makes continuing the healing mission a very 'felt' experience," she said. "It has been my privilege to be a part of that for 25 years." SERVICES

#### — ST JOHN OF GOD —

### WARRNAMBOOL HOSPITAL

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 1989

St John of God Warrnambool Hospital enjoys the unwavering support of the communities it serves. The contemporary health care services offered by the hospital are reaching out to serve an ever growing community in south-west Victoria.



A s St John of God Health Care celebrates 25 years, its Warrnambool Hospital is recognising 75 years of providing hospital and health care to south-west Victoria having been established by the Sisters in 1939.

St John of God Health Care made a decision in 1991 to rebuild the ageing hospital so that it would better meet the future needs of the region. Support from the community was sought and generously given through a fund raising campaign. The new hospital was opened in 1995 by the Premier of Victoria, the Hon Jeff Kennett.

IMAGE Left: Patient receiving rehabilitation therapy.





Top: Official opening of the new hospital on 8 March 1995 by the Most Reverend R.A. Mulkearns Bishop of Ballarat, Premier of Victoria, the Hon Jeff Kennett, and Sr Helena Lavelle, Chief Executive Officer.

Above: Srs Lucilla, De Chantal, Maureen, Borromeo and Euphrasia, accompanied by retired priests Mons Fiscalini, Mons McKenzie, Fr Kiniry and Fr Harney, tour the site of the new Warrnambool Hospital with Site Manager Don Webster (at the back). Over time, new services were introduced including a day surgery unit, home nursing, mental health, diabetes, dietetics and an expanded range of rehabilitation and physiotherapy services. The hospital's home nursing services were transferred into a stand-alone service managed by St John of God Health Choices in 2009.

In 2010, the hospital opened a health services centre comprising rehabilitation therapies such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, exercise physiology, oncology rehabilitation, cardiac rehabilitation, diabetes care and dietetics. The wide range of specialities available in a single centre affords patients a holistic approach to healing.

The hospital now also provides patients that undergo complex orthopaedic surgery with a wide range of rehabilitation services to support their recovery.



**Right:** Warrnambool Hospital Chief Executive Officer Dr Glen Power, with Urologist Mr Richard Grills (on screen) from Geelong, using new telehealth technology.

**Below:** The community mental health team works with people in rural communities.

**Opposite page top:** *General Surgeon Mr Philip Gan is pictured here with a computer image showing the LiVac device in action at St John of God Warrnambool Hospital.* 

Opposite page below: Sr Borromeo Mahony, affectionately known as Sr Borrie, was a woman of small stature with a big heart who was loved by many. She served 31 years as a Sister at Warrnambool and passed away, aged 95, on Australia Day 2013.





Since the closure of the obstetrics services in 2012, after 73 years of delivering babies at the hospital, the hospital has focused on expanding its surgical care and now provides a wide range of complex surgical care to patients in western and south-west Victoria.

The community mental health team, established in 2006, works directly with clients in the community across a broad-spectrum of mental health conditions. It is supported by the specialist perinatal mental health service provided by the Raphael Centre.



In 2013 the hospital hosted a trial of a new surgical device called a LiVac, used for retracting the liver during laparoscopic gall bladder and stomach surgery. Invented by Warrnambool-based general surgeon Mr Philip Gan, the LiVac device allows operations to be performed with fewer skin incisions, thereby reducing trauma to the patient. The initial phase one human trial of the device was an Australia-wide first, and was supported by the Commonwealth Government.

In a unique community partnership, hospital therapists work with the local secondary schools and student wellbeing services to identify students in need of mental health support.

In 2010, a six-bedroom Horizon House was built in Warrnambool to help homeless youth find secure, stable and supported accommodation. It was the first Horizon House to also build transitional units, to give residents the opportunity to graduate into more independent accommodation on the same grounds as the Horizon House before leaving the service to find a permanent home in the community.



### Jack Willis was a caretaker at the hospital for 41 years,

living on site in the nowdemolished caretaker's house with his children. To him it was more than a job. On his days off he would drive the Sisters around to do jobs.

Jack's daughter Rosemary often went over to the hospital to help, running messages into town for the Sisters or delivering wool to ladies in the community. Rosemary, who worked as a Nurse Assistant for several years, said of the Sisters, "It was good to learn from them. They influenced our lives in a very positive way."

Rosemary left to pursue a career as a dental nurse and after starting her own family she returned to the hospital in 1980. Rosemary has worked at the hospital for more than 30 years and hopes to continue the family connection for a few more years.







**Opposite page top:** Caretaker Jack Willis who worked at the hospital for 41 years is fondly recalled by former caregiver Judy Stewart as a "Jack of all trades". She remembers Jack working in the hospital gardens, then changing his clothes to work in the laundry and then changing again into his theatre garb to take patients into theatre. Jack is pictured here performing maintenance in one of the hospital's theatres.

**Opposite page below:** Rosemary Moore has worked at the hospital for more than 30 years and in 2014 is leader of the Environmental Services team.

#### My wife Mary and I arrived back in Warrnambool to settle into family practice in 1973. I worked as a General Practitioner and Mary worked as a full-time on-call physiotherapist for St John of God Warrnambool for nearly

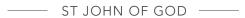
30 years.

For the hospital to survive in the '70s, we needed to encourage surgeons to use the hospital by motivating patients to have their surgery at the hospital. I was on the St John's Medical Advisory Committee for many years and we worked hard at motivating the community to set up and request inpatient care in the new hospital.

The mantra for our lives in medical service in Warrnambool was to get involved, participate and contribute to what we believed in. As doctors we are part of an important team, the overall care of the patient being our common goal.

Dr Mike Page, retired GP

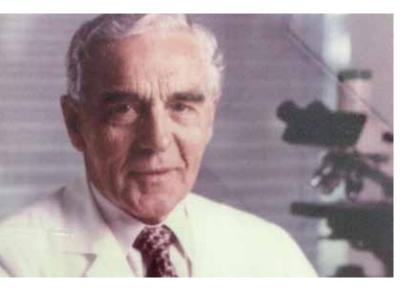
SERVICES



### PATHOLOGY

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 1989

Changes in technology and automation over the years have revolutionised the way we provide pathology services and enhanced our ability to reach our distant communities and health providers.





S t John of God Pathology provides a comprehensive range of diagnostic pathology services to medical practitioners, hospitals and industry throughout Western Australia and Victoria. Pathology services are an integral part of health care delivery, providing essential diagnostic information to assist medical practitioners in treatment of patients.

Pathology services were first provided by the Sisters of St John of God in the 1940s at Subiaco Hospital and in 1968 at Ballarat Hospital. In 1993 the pathology services were separated from the hospitals and two independently operating pathology services were formed – one in Western Austalia and one in Victoria. In 1999, the two pathology operations were combined into a single St John of God Health Care Pathology service, enabling a unified approach to the provision of pathology services.





**Top:** The early days of Pathology in the St John of God Subiaco Hospital basement.

Above: The Bendat diagnostic laboratory.

**Opposite page top:** *Dr Ray Joyce was the first full time pathologist appointed by the Sisters in August 1955. He retired in July 1993.* 

**Opposite page below:** Couriers collect blood samples from collection centres and deliver to our laboratories.

Pathology services grew exponentially in response to community demand and the 1990s particularly was a period of major growth. The Pathology ministry expanded from 75 caregivers and an annual total revenue of around \$5 million in the early 1990s to more than 1,200 caregivers and a revenue of close to \$100 million in 2014. The number of patients serviced per annum rose from 50,000 to more than two million in 2014.

Four key acquisitions, Mercy Pathology WA in 1987, Hollywood Repatriation Hospital Pathology WA in 1994, Perth Pathology Services in 1997 and PathCare Consulting Pathologists Victoria in 2004, were instrumental in significantly growing the pathology service base over time. In addition, the privatisation of public pathology services in Victoria in the early 1990s was a significant factor in the expansion of Pathology's laboratory network.



Left: Scientist Kevin Stuart examines a sample. Kevin has worked for St John of God Pathology in Victoria for 10 years.

Below: Professor Vince Caruso, Director of Cancer Services, Anatomical Pathology, and MLA Jim McGinty at the official opening of the Bendat diagnostic and research laboratories in 2008.

**Opposite page top:** *Milana Ranieri, Director of Quality, Risk and Compliance.* 

**Opposite page below:** A blood sample is collected by the phlebotomist.

By the end of the 1990s, 22 laboratories were operating across Western Australia and Victoria. The expansion of services saw huge growth in collection centres, which increased from five centres in the early 1990s to over 160 centres situated over a wide geographical area in both states by 2014.

Most of St John of God Health Care's Western Australian and Victorian hospitals now have a St John of God Pathology laboratory on site and plans are well developed for a purpose-built laboratory to be established at the new St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals that will open in 2015.

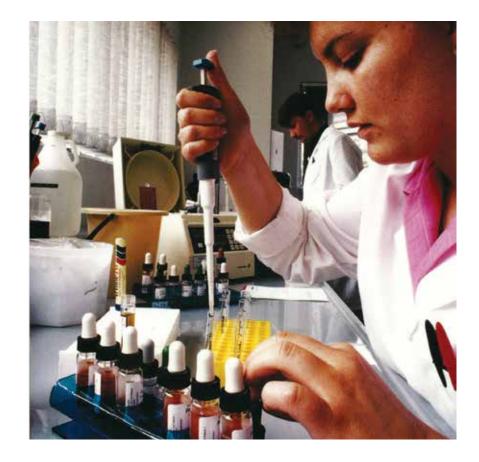


### Milana Ranieri, pictured right when she was the Scientist-

*in-Charge* at St John of God Pathology laboratory at Mercy Hospital Mount Lawley, has worked for St John of God Pathology for over 20 years. During this time Milana has witnessed many changes in pathology testing methods.

In the early years of her tenure, blood grouping and compatibility testing was carried out in test tubes. Scientists had to wait up to an hour to find out whether they had compatible units of blood for transfusion for a patient going into surgery – which would often result in delays to surgery.

Today the use of gel column technology to conduct the same test is a semi or fully automated procedure. What used to take one hour can now be achieved in five minutes.





State-of-the-art laboratory facilities allow St John of God Pathology to undertake a full range of medical and commercial pathology testing.

The suite of diagnostic tests has expanded over the years and now includes advanced platforms such as flow cytometry and molecular testing of oncology samples and both microbial and human DNA. These advanced methods allow for testing of smaller samples thus providing more rapid responses to treating clinicians.

Continual improvements in the sensitivity of testing and service response times have been achieved through ongoing investment by St John of God Pathology in new technology.

In 2004, St John of God Health Care signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of East Timor to deliver a Pathology Development Program. The Program facilitates the transfer of expertise to help develop East Timor's pathology capabilities and sustainability.

#### In 1982 Dr Trevor Kyle commenced as a part time

pathologist in a partnership providing services to the Sisters of St John of God in Western Australia. The following year he became a full time partner. At this time pathology services were more or less confined to the Sister's Subiaco and Rivervale Hospitals. Patient episodes were 100-200 per day and daily visits were made to Rivervale to deliver reports and collect samples. The introduction of fax machines in 1985 reduced the turnaround time for reports however visits to Rivervale continued for the of samples and enjoyment of their famous morning teas of hot scones with jam and 1988 saw the development programmers and St John of God scientists. In 1987 Patricia Michell and Frank Cordingley joined the practice, which started to provide services to Mercy Hospital Mt Lawley formation of St John of God Health Care in 1989 led to the pathology services becoming part of St John of God Subiaco



Providing accurate pathology results assists doctors working in Dili's national hospital and in the regional hospitals of East Timor to diagnose the patient's illness and subsequently improve the level of appropriate medical treatment provided in this developing nation.

Over the years that the program has been in place, pathology caregivers from Victoria and Western Australia have engaged in short and long term secondments to Dili, providing training and support to local laboratory staff. The connection to the program is strong as it celebrates its 10 year anniversary in 2014.

Right: Kevin Taylor, Group Director Corporate Services, and former Chief Executive Officer St John of God Pathology for 16 years, works alongside a staff member in the pathology laboratory in Dili's National Hospital, Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares. Under Kevin's leadership pathology services experienced significant expansion, enabling St John of God Pathology to be well placed to meet the needs of its communities.

**Below right:** A laboratory caregiver cross matches bloods for transfusion.

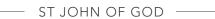
Below: Dr Frank Cordingley, Pathologist-in-Charge, Haematology is pictured here with Sr Teresina Connolly at the opening of the new laboratory at St John of God Murdoch Hospital in 2012.

Opposite page: Dr Trevor Kyle hands over the reins of the Western Australian pathology services to inaugural Chief Executive Officer Kevin Taylor on 1 July 1993.





**SERVICES** 



### **GEELONG HOSPITAL** PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 1989

Geelong is a unique city, St John of God Geelong Hospital is a truly unique hospital delivering care that is distinctive, valued and respected.





The Sisters were welcomed by the Geelong community when they established St John of God Geelong Hospital in 1974 after Monsignor Murray put out a call to the St John of God Order to take on responsibility for the management of the Holy Cross Hospital in Geelong, originally established by the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

St John of God Health Care would continue the proud and long tradition of Catholic health care services to the region and grow the hospital's services in tune with community needs and the evolution of health and hospital care.

#### IMAGES

Above: Sr Margaret Duffy (Provincial Leader), Sr Eucharia Duffy, Monsignor James Murray, Sr Barbara Matthews, Sr Assumption Neary and Sr Vitalis Kilroy on the steps of the Holy Cross Hospital, Geelong, 4 February 1974.

Below: An innovative new service was established by the hospital in 1994 where experienced midwives visited new mothers and their babies in their homes in the first few days after the mothers were discharged from hospital. Midwives Isobel Oliver and Sue Baker are pictured with Monsignor James Murray. [Photograph courtesy of Geelong Advertiser]





**Top:** Chief Executive Officer Stephen Roberts, MP Hon Richard Marles and Archbishop Denis Hart at the opening and Blessing of the Specialist Centre in 2009.

**Above:** *Dr Michael Ragg outside the new Emergency Department opened in 2014.* 

To keep pace with change the hospital was altered and refurbished in 1994 and, in growing with the community and surrounding areas, new services included onsite radiology, midwifery in the home, critical care and day surgery.

The west wing of the Geelong Hospital was redeveloped in 1998, increasing the bed capacity and introducing onsite consulting suites. A new specialist centre was built and opened in 2009, increasing the number of specialist consulting suites and creating a stand-alone day surgery centre.

A major redevelopment completed in 2014 delivered a new six-storey medical centre and emergency department, along with a hydrotherapy pool, rehabilitation services, 64 more hospital beds and another three operating theatres.

The Horizon House model of caring for homeless youth was initiated in Geelong in 1998 in response to the unmet need for long term supported accommodation. Community support in the way of money, time and personal effort donated for this initiative was overwhelming and is ongoing.



Left: St John of God Geelong Hospital underwent a major redevelopment that was completed in 2014.

Below: Barwon Youth worker Josie Taylor (second from left) is involved in the Youth Engagement Program, a partnership between St John of God Geelong Hospital and Barwon Youth, supporting vulnerable youth in south-west Victoria.

Opposite page top: Launching the 2009 Raphael Centre Colac Satellite service. From left to right are Counsellor Sigrid Jakob, Colac-based Maternal Health Nurse Rosemary Richardson and Raphael Centre Manager Suzanne Higgins.

Opposite page below: Opening the Oncology Centre in 2009, developed with the help of considerable funds raised by the community, are (from left to right) Director of Hospital and Community Development Taanya Widdicombe, Barry Bell OAM and Chief Executive Officer Stephen Roberts.

St John of God Geelong Hospital was awarded Catholic Health Australia's 2nd annual Outreach Healthcare Award for its Youth Engagement Program in August 2010.

The Youth Engagement Program, a partnership between St John of God Geelong Hospital and Barwon Youth, focuses on supporting young people in the south-west region of Victoria experiencing problems with alcohol and other drugs.

Youth workers engage with vulnerable young people in their own environment where they are most comfortable. They link them with agencies that can provide additional treatment. The program offers a safe place for young people with complex health and social needs to access showers and meals and nursing staff and to be referred to appropriate accommodation.





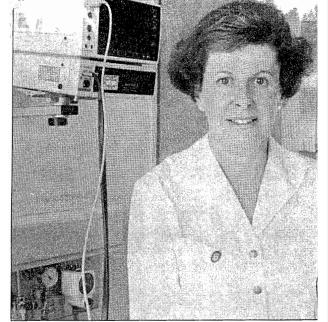
The Geelong Raphael Centre opened in 2003 to help women experiencing post natal depression. Before the Centre opened the closest support for new mothers was in Heidelberg, over an hour away.

A satellite service for the Raphael Centre in the town of Colac, to the west of Geelong, was established when maternal health nurse Rosemary Richmond identified the need and gained support to extend the services' reach.

#### Past Chairman of the Fundraising Appeal

**Committee**, the late Mr Barry Bell OAM is remembered for his true community spirit and dedication. The Oncology Centre, which he helped raise funds to establish in 2009, continues today to provide a unique and contemporary environment for patients and their families seeking treatment at St John of God Geelong Hospital.





re should always be changes. An institution this size cannot stand still."

# First lay leader of nursing staff

FOR the first time in the history of Geelong's St John of God Hospital, a lay person has been appointed director of nursing.

Mrs Catherine Birrell — formerly deputy director of nursing — took over the position last week, following the resignation of Sis-ter Sarto Salmon.

By Kim Gregson

Until recently she had been the acting director — since Sister Salmon's resignation.

Mrs Birrell is in charge of 180 people on the hospital's nursing staff and will be involved in the midwifery and surgical sections and the adult and child special

St John of God nuns took over the hospital in 1974, and a nun had always held the title of director of nur-sing since then. The hospital's chief ex-ecutive officer, Sister Martha Forde, said nuns worked side-by-side with lay staff.

lay staff. "With the reduction in numbers of religious sis-ters, more lay staff will be

#### Long-serving caregiver Kate

Birrell made the headlines in Geelong in June 1990 when she was appointed Geelong Hospital's Director of Nursing.

Taking on the role following the resignation of Sr Sarto Salmon, Kate was the first ever lay person to hold a Director of Nursing position in a St John of God Health Care hospital.

The hospital's then Chief Executive Officer, Sr Martha Forde, said: "With the reduction in numbers of religious sisters, more lay staff will be trained. This hospital is adapting to the changing times".

#### IMAGES

Above: Newspaper article courtesy of Geelong Advertiser.

Right: Patient Patrick Pollard (88), a supporter of the Geelong Cats for 80 years, watched his team play from his room at St John of God Geelong Hospital. Patrick is pictured here with Patricia Boom who was appointed in 2000 as the first lay Director of Mission at St John of God Geelong Hospital. [Photograph courtesy of Geelong Advertiser]

Opposite page above: From left to right: Juliana Cooper, Colleen Arnold, patient Hong Hahn Thi Luong, Anne Aulsebrook and Marina Neal.

Opposite page below: Rehabilitation patient, Mrs Lynette Stott with Mr Frank Costa OAM. [Photograph courtesy of BareFoot Media]



#### Well known and respected Geelong plastic surgeon Ian Holten and caregivers at

St John of God Geelong Hospital volunteered countless hours, in 30 separate operations, to help liberate Vietnamese woman Hong Hanh Thi Luong from a cruelly contorted body, the result of healing from horrific, scarring burns to 60 per cent of her body. Rudimentary medical treatment meant that, in healing, Hanh's chin had fused to her chest, the sides of her face had fused with her shoulders, her upper arms fused to her sides and skin from her midriff had fused to the front of her thighs.

After more than 100 hours of surgery, Hanh can now hold a pen, put on a T-shirt, feed herself, pick up her handbag and go to the toilet with dignity. Excited about her new range of body movements, Hanh did something she hadn't previously been able to do – she put her arm around Ian's shoulder saying he was a good and a warm man.

#### Mr Frank Costa OAM has served the Geelong Hospital for over 25 years with many

years of service as a member of the hospital Community Council and providing substantial financial support, encouragement and advocacy. Caregivers and the community of Geelong are eternally grateful for the wonderful and generous support offered by Frank and the entire Costa family.







## **RIVERVALE HOSPITAL** PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE FROM 1989 TO 1993

Every place in health care is a place of mission and every person involved in health care, irrespective of role or ministry, is "on mission" – the doctor, the nurse, the chef, the tradesman, the cleaner, the receptionist, the Board member, the CEO, the Mission leader and all others.



S t John of God Rivervale Hospital was established by the Sisters of St John of God in 1934 in response to a request from the Mayor of the City of Perth, Dr Thomas Meagher, to provide health care services to meet the needs of people living in the area that was five kilometres from the city but on the opposite side of the river. At that time the district was fairly isolated and transport options were limited.

A large house, known as Hill 60, was purchased by the Sisters. Not exactly an ideal building for a hospital but, situated on the banks of the Swan River, it was considered to be an ideal location. The hospital provided X-ray services as well as general medical nursing care. Surgical care was introduced when a purpose-built hospital was developed on the site in 1937.





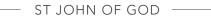
#### IMAGES

Top: St John of God Rivervale Hospital.

Above: Caregivers working in the laundry at St John of God Rivervale Hospital.

**Opposite page:** St John of God Rivervale Hospital was located on the banks of the Swan River. With views of the river and all the way to the city of Perth, the gardens were a wonderful place for patients to relax and enjoy the fresh air. St John of God Rivervale Hospital had developed into a busy surgical facility and was a popular venue for many Perth surgeons by the time it joined the St John of God Health Care Group in 1989. It became evident that new facilities were needed. A review of all expansion options led to the realisation that the site at Rivervale would not be suitable for future growth.

St John of God Health Care had won a bid in the early 1990s to build a new hospital in Perth's southern suburb of Murdoch which had the capacity to accommodate the patients and services provided at Rivervale Hospital. Consequently the hospital's land and buildings were sold in 1993, which helped finance the new St John of God Murdoch Hospital, and all Rivervale caregivers and patients were transferred to the new hospital.



## MURDOCH HOSPITAL PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 1994

The expansion of our ministry through a major redevelopment of St John of God Murdoch Hospital, situated in the Murdoch health precinct, will see unprecedented opportunities for collaboration, community building, clinical education and development.





 ${\displaystyle S}$  t John of God Murdoch Hospital was built by St John of God Health Care to serve the health care needs of the rapidly emerging southern suburbs of Perth. The organisation was the successful respondent in a State Government call for bids for the right to construct a hospital south of the Swan River.

The spacious suburban parkland setting on which the new hospital was constructed was considered to be more akin to a resort than a modern hospital. Care has been taken to retain some of the parklands throughout redevelopments as they are considered important to the sense of community at Murdoch Hospital and in recognition of the role nature plays in the healing process.

The hospital celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014.

#### IMAGES

**Top:** Sr Margaret Beech SSJA, Fr Peter Whitely and Sr Camile Darwin, Chief Executive Officer St Josephs Hospital Bicton, admiring the artist's impression of the proposed hospital at the Blessing of the site for the new Murdoch Hospital.

**Below:** St John of God Murdoch Hospital's North block was completed in 2005.





St John of God Murdoch Hospital opened in 1994 with the only private hospital emergency department in the State, providing Western Australians with a choice in emergency care.

Paediatrics and maternity were also an important part of the new hospital, in due consideration for the demographic of the emerging suburban area. In addition to these services the hospital specialises in orthopaedics, oncology, cardiology, endoscopy and palliative care services.

It would prove fruitful that the site for the original hospital was large enough to accommodate future population growth, as in just 20 years Murdoch Hospital would undergo further developments and more than double its capacity to treat and care for the burgeoning metropolitan region.

#### IMAGES

**Top:** In 1994, St John of God Murdoch Hospital was officially opened by the Governor of Western Australia Major General Michael Jeffries.

Above: Caregivers preparing for surgery.





By 2015, the Murdoch Hospital will have 537 beds and be strategically located alongside Western Australia's new flagship tertiary public hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital. The redeveloped St John of God Murdoch Hospital will include a cancer centre, eight additional theatres, five new procedure rooms in a stand-alone 30 bed endoscopy ward, increased beds for the intensive care unit and three floors of patient accommodation.

An important service at the St John of God Murdoch Hospital and a cherished community resource is the Murdoch Community Hospice, which provides specialist palliative care for people faced with a life-limiting illness and their families. To secure its future it was integrated into the Murdoch Hospital in 2008 after being established by a separate venture in 1998.



When babies are born prematurely, parents are sometimes not equipped to deal with the unexpected nature of the birth or the amount of medical intervention that is required. The hospital offers a unique service, Care and Connect, to help parents overcome these difficulties and make a connection with their newborn baby.

St John of God Murdoch Hospital is a major partner in the education and training of the future health care workforce. It works closely with several higher education providers including Challenger Institute of Technology, Murdoch University, Notre Dame University, Edith Cowan University and Curtin University to facilitate training and development in the hospital setting as well as graduate and post-graduate courses for a range of health professionals.

In 2012 the hospital opened the purpose built St John of God Murdoch Training and Education Centre, known as MURTEC, for all health professional disciplines.

#### IMAGES

Above: Perinatal and Infant Psychiatrist Dr Beate Harrison and Occupational Therapist Hanne Jepsen from the Murdoch Raphael Centre spent time with mother Megan Bottomly whose triplets were being cared for in the special care nursery.

**Right:** A showpiece of MURTEC is its simulation centre being utilised by the hospital and its education partners.

**Opposite page top:** The picturesque Hospice courtyard provides a peaceful space in which patients and their families can spend time together.

**Opposite page below:** An aerial view of the hospital, circa 1994, looking towards Perth city centre.





#### **Cockburn Community Youth**

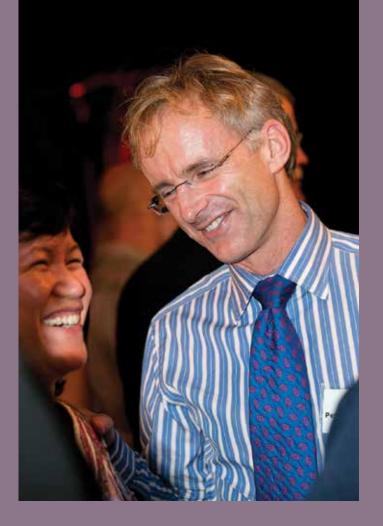
Worker Oonagh Vereker and Murdoch Hospital caregiver Kristy Mippy sit on a 'talking couch'. 'Talking couches' was a program for young women of Aboriginal descent who were not attending school on a regular basis, or were engaged in the juvenile justice system. Talking couches involved rebuilding and decorating old couches and incorporating individual stories and experiences from their own couches at home. The aim was to engage participants in a free two-day course of fun and educational activities that would to link them back into the education system or justice program.

The hospital opened the Fremantle Counselling Centre in 2004 to provide low-cost services in response to an identified gap in Perth's south metropolitan community for people experiencing anxiety and depression.

The centre expanded to include outreach services to the Aboriginal community in 2007 followed by the opening of a Raphael House service in 2012.

Now known as Murdoch Community Mental Health, the service provides care for people experiencing disadvantage at all stages of life. Pregnant women and families are able to access support for post natal depression, young people and adults struggling with mental health conditions receive counselling help and there is outreach to the Aboriginal community. End-of-life and bereavement counselling is offered to Murdoch Community Hospice patients and their families.





### Doctors are integral to the delivery of hospital and health care services. Each

year St John of God Murdoch Hospital acknowledges the valued contribution of doctors through a Doctor of the Year Award. In 2012 the award was made to Respiratory Physician Dr Peter Bremner, who is pictured (left) talking with a caregiver at the annual Christmas gathering where the award was made. Dr Bremner was accredited at Murdoch in 1993, and became Chair of the Murdoch Hospital Medical Advisory Committee in 2002.

#### The Medical Advisory

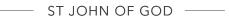
Committee at St John of God Health Care hospitals advises the Chief Executive Officer on medical and quality issues affecting the hospital and assists in providing strategic advice on patient care at the hospital.



#### IMAGES

**Right:** A Social and Emotional Wellbeing Worker, situated at the City of Cockburn's Youth Centre in Success, provides support and advocacy for at-risk young people.

Opposite page below: Mental Health Commissioner for Western Australia Mr Eddie Bartnik, Sr Gratia O'Shaunnesy SSJG and Manager Community Mental Health and Social Outreach and Advocacy Ms Peta Wootton at the Blessing and opening of Ferns House Fremantle in 2011.



## **BERWICK HOSPITAL** PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 2004

This hospital holds a special place in the heart of the Berwick community and we have an enormous responsibility to ensure it grows so that we can respond to the needs of this region, one of the fastest growing areas in Victoria.





In 2004, Berwick was a small 30 bed hospital supported by two operating theatres and housing a combined medical and surgical ward, maternity ward and limited day surgery services.

Since joining St John of God Health Care in 2004 the hospital has expanded to 70 beds, two new operating theatres have been established and more than 50 specialists now consult onsite. A major redevelopment will see the hospital grow even further in the coming years.

St John of God Berwick Hospital's reputation for compassionate end of life care is well known. In 2013, the hospital opened a dedicated palliative care service offering holistic palliative care for patients and their families.

Providing excellent maternity services is important to meeting the needs of a growing community. In 2004, three obstetricians delivered 350 babies and in 2014 seven obstetricians will provide specialist care to welcome more than 1,000 babies into the world. The hospital's special care nursery was upgraded to a level 2 nursery in 2012, which means some premature and unwell babies can now stay at the hospital with their mothers and no longer need to be transferred to another hospital.





#### IMAGES

**Top:** The level 2 nursery provides extended care to premature and unwell babies.

Above: Scott, Sally and Sally's mum, Beryl (photograph).

**Opposite page top:** Berwick Hospital is highly regarded by patients for the unique care and concern provided by its caregivers.

**Opposite page below:** The front of St John of God Berwick Hospital as it was in 2004 when it housed just 30 patient beds.

Three generations of my family have chosen nursing careers at this hospital. Thirty years ago I was inspired by my mother to enter into nursing after I saw the unique care that she and her colleagues gave patients in what was then known as the Berwick Bush Nursing Hospital. I'm immensely proud that my son Scott has also chosen a career in nursing and has commenced his graduate year at the hospital in 2014.

Nurse Sally Joustra

After the birth of her first child Bella in 2005, Syndi was overcome by feelings of inadequacy and irrational fear. She had panic attacks, cried all the time and withdrew from friends and family, having no idea she was suffering from postnatal depression.

Syndi eventually visited her doctor and was admitted to a Melbourne-based mother and baby unit. "It was really hard on my family and disappointing that we didn't have a mother and baby unit in our local area," Syndi said.

By the time Syndi returned home from Melbourne, Berwick Hospital's Raphael Centre had opened.

"I was the second patient to use the new service. Once I recovered, I wanted to work at the Raphael Centre because I wanted to help other mums as I really valued the care I received. I have worked at the Centre since 2008 and am so proud of what we do."





Berwick caregiver Lynne Boulter and other members of the Vietnam Smiles project team were so moved by the plight of Hao – a disabled and frail young girl they met on an outreach mission to Vietnam – they pledged to raise money to purchase her an all-terrain wheelchair.

Hao had been carried by her mother from her village to the Vietnam Smiles dental clinic where she met Lynne and others involved in the program. In 2012 a beautiful, warm, kind-hearted friend of

the hospital, Pam Ryrie, a foundation member of the hospital's Oncology Focus Group who was undergoing treatment for a third time. resolved to support the hospital's new Day Oncology Unit which aimed to provide local people with treatment closer to home. Pam knew that travelling to receive treatment could be emotionally and physically draining for patients and their families. She set about raising funds for the unit with great determination and passion. Sadly, Pam died in March 2013 before seeing her dream through to completion.

Pam's daughters promised their mum that they would continue her work and presented a cheque to St John of God Berwick Hospital for \$23,000 just a few months later. The money has funded an entire chemotherapy treatment space that has been dedicated to Pam's memory.

#### IMAGE

Above: The Ryrie family – David Ryrie, daughters Julie Anderson and Suzie Ryrie, and grandson Finn Moeller – with oncology nurses Maryanne Burr and Roz Rickard, in the Pam Ryrie Treatment Area dedicated to Pam's memory.



In 2007, the hospital established the Berwick Raphael Centre, the only centre of its kind in Melbourne's south east. Establishing strong links with maternal and child health centres and accepting families regardless of where their infant was born, the Centre helps over 200 new families every year who are experiencing anxiety and post natal depression.

Vietnam Smiles is an international outreach partnership between the hospital, Rotary Clubs and St Margaret's College. The project aims to improve outcomes in the health and well being of remote Vietnam communities through training and support in dental care, health education and infection control.

### – ST JOHN OF GOD -----

## FRANKSTON REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 2004

The journey of recovery, whether from surgery, illness or injury, provides many challenges. As each patient achieves their individual goals we, as caregivers, are inspired and privileged to be a part of their success.



S t John of God Health Care purchased Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital in 2004 from a group of doctors who had established it as a private rehabilitation hospital in 2000. The hospital was originally established in 1970 as Peninsula Private Hospital, which relocated to larger premises nearby.

Under the operation of St John of God Health Care the hospital expanded to meet the growing rehabilitation needs of the community and surrounding areas.



#### IMAGES

**Top:** Pictured at the Blessing of the refurbished hospital and change of name on 27 June 2012 are, from left to right: Sr Josephine, Executive Director Eastern Hospitals Tracey Burton, Frankston Mayor Brian Cunial, Rev Allstair MacLennan, Sr Florence, Sr Ena and Chief Executive Officer/Director of Nursing Sally Faulkner.

**Left:** Physiotherapy is tailored to meet each individual patient's rehabilitation goals.





#### IMAGES

**Top:** A pet visiting area allows patients to spend quality time with their pet while recovering in hospital. Maya the dog was the first 'pet caregiver' who brought much cheer to patients when she visited every weekend. Maya has since retired and another pet caregiver now visits patients.

Above: Emma Boston, Cardiac Rehabilitation Coordinator works closely with a patient during his exercise program. The hospital was known as St John of God Nepean Rehabilitation Hospital from 2004 until 2012 when the name was changed to St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital to reflect and connect more with the community in which it is based.

In its early years the hospital focused on orthopaedics and reconditioning but now, with an improved multidisciplinary approach, it is also able to support patients through recovery from heart and lung conditions as well as cancer, stroke and spinal injury.

The patient is the centre of the model of care delivered at the Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital. A holistic approach has proven to enhance the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual wellbeing of patients.





## Russell McPhee, a husband and father, was left paralysed after a stroke at work when

he was just 26. He lost his job and his wife and was left feeling as though his life had ended. When he reunited 20 years later with a childhood sweetheart, Kerry, she was determined to help him walk again. Kerry introduced Russell to Dr Nathan Johns, who Russell described as the first person to give him hope. Russell recalled Dr Johns saying, "Botox will fix you up".

After treatment with Botox injections at Frankston Hospital, Russell learnt to walk up to 20 metres, unaided, and 100 metres with a walking frame.

Dr Johns said botox on its own would not have worked without Russell's extraordinary strength of will and repeated attempts to get out of his wheelchair, thanks to the core muscle strength gained with the support of his physiotherapist and doctors.

Russell said he wants to get rid of his walking frame altogether.

"I want to go dancing with Kerry and play basketball with my son."

#### IMAGES

**Top:** Russell wants to be finally rid of his walking frame so he can take his childhood sweetheart Kerry out dancing.

Left: Russell McPhee learnt to walk again 20 years after a stroke left him paralysed, with the help of Valentina Maric (former Physiotherapy Manager at St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital).

# Maria Domingo was a fulfilled, successful woman

who considered herself to be "in control" of her life when chronic pain and subsequent depression caused by a severe back injury left her unable to work and socially isolated.

For Maria, Frankston Hospital's pastoral services proved invaluable in providing an outlet for her feelings. Sometimes though, even words became too hard and Maria began art therapy with Cassie from occupational therapy. Cassie explained that art therapy takes people deeper, to assist them in finding a sense of self.

In her mind Maria saw a cold, dark prison above which was a ray of sunshine and birds flying. Like them, she wanted to be free. A series of lines ended up as the pictured painting. While the vibrant colours are reminders of burdens which sometimes still become too much to bear, the dove is dominant, symbolising hope.





Youth homelessness is a critical social issue in Frankston and to help address this concern the hospital, in conjunction with Peninsula Community Ownership Foundation, funds the employment of a full time Open Family Outreach Youth Worker. The hospital also organises a collection of nappies and other baby goods to assist homeless and disadvantaged young mums that come into contact with the service.

#### IMAGES

**Top:** Cassie with Maria doing art therapy.

**Above:** Peter is a Youth Worker with Open Family and has worked closely with at-risk youth in Frankston.



# BENDIGO HOSPITAL

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 2005

In central Victoria, the city of Bendigo is a crucial hub from which many regional services emanate. St John of God Bendigo Hospital has been embraced by its community as an important partner in the delivery of local health care.





S t John of God Bendigo Hospital has always had a deep affinity with its community, since it was established in 1961 by the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood when it was known as Mount Alvernia.

Under the operation of St John of God Health Care from 2005 the hospital has grown along with the region's population, necessitating new health services and facilities.

The capacity of the hospital to care for the treatment of heart conditions was improved when a new cardiac catheter laboratory was opened in 2006, followed by critical care and cardiac investigation units, a chest pain centre and a major refurbishment of the whole surgical area.

Bendigo Hospital opened Australia's first outpatient oncology rehabilitation program in 2010, recognising that cancer patients who are provided with further education and encouragement could better manage their disease, maintain their health and have a greater sense of wellbeing.





#### IMAGES

**Top:** Bendigo Hospital's cardiac catheter laboratory performs around 1,000 procedures every year.

**Above:** St John of God Bendigo Hospital caters meals for the Horizon House food van. The van visits a school and a community location at least once a week so that young people can access a hot meal.

**Opposite page top:** Bendigo Hospital's float entry in the 2011 Bendigo Easter Parade received the prize for best community engagement display.

**Opposite page below:** Mission Director Denis Byrne, Fr Peter-John Neivandt, Critical Care Services Manager Mark Nally and Bishop of Sandhurst Bishop Les Tomlinson. Bendigo's Social Outreach and Advocacy endeavours have seen the formation of important relationships with other service providers in the community. The main areas of focus have been post natal depression and youth mental health.

A local fundraising committee is dedicated to supporting Bendigo's Horizon House and the hospital has partnered in the Bendigo headspace program along with other local organisations.

In 2013 St John of God Bendigo Hospital opened a Raphael Centre in the community to support families through post natal depression and other mental health conditions. The Raphael Centre is housed alongside other family oriented services at Bendigo Community Health Services in Kangaroo Flat.

Bendigo Hospital has 140 trained volunteers working in over 20 different areas of the hospital. Volunteers play a vital role in supporting the hospital's services and their involvement and dedication is greatly appreciated by the entire hospital community.

## St John of God Bendigo Hospital donated a bed and

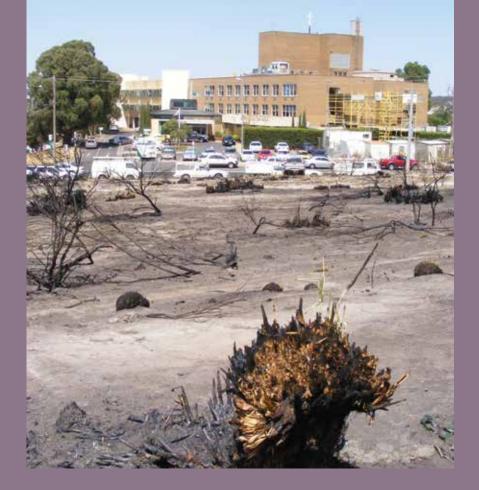
nursing care to help make it possible for little Asha Mundie from Tanzania to receive major abdominal and bowel surgery. Associate Professor Beth Penington (left) performed the surgery and was supported by anaesthetist Dr Andrew Purcell, both of whom provided their services free of charge. Moira Kelly, from Children First Foundation, who helped bring Asha to Australia for treatment, is pictured here with Beth and Asha.





### **St John of God Bendigo Hospital's Auxiliary** started in 1961 and more than 50 years

on it still has a few founding members. The Auxiliary continues, as it started out, to organise and manage fund raising initiatives that contribute a great deal of money to the hospital for patient comfort items. Former Chief Executive Officer Michael Hogan is pictured here with members of the Auxiliary at their Annual General Meeting in March 2011.



Caregivers, doctors and visitors went above and beyond the call of duty during the fire emergency on 7 February 2009 that is now known in history as Black Saturday. It was a frightening time for all as the fire came right up to the hospital and, with little knowledge of where else in Bendigo was under flame, it wasn't possible to evacuate. The confronting situation saw a community of people come together to support one another and to stay and defend their hospital.

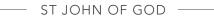
Four young people keen to experience the inside workings of a hospital,

Tamati, Dannikka, Kerry and Zac, completed work placements at St John of God Bendigo as part of the organisation's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. The foursome grew in confidence every day and built a great rapport with caregivers.

#### IMAGE

**Right:** *Kerry* and *Zac* had a great time preparing meals and then delivering them on the wards.





# **BRIGHTON HOSPITAL**

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE FROM 1989 TO 1999

St John of God Health Care in all its actions sets out to be both a response to and a continuation of the healing and compassionate ministry of Jesus.



S t John of God Brighton Hospital opened in 1949 after World War II to care for returned soldiers from the war suffering from what we now know as post traumatic stress disorder. As the hospital's reputation grew, members of the general community started to seek out the hospital for its treatment and care for mental illness.

In 1998, nine years after the hospital became a part of the St John of God Health Care group, the number of patients being treated at the hospital was declining and the hospital facilities were in need of upgrading.

The Board began to explore various alternatives including renovation, selling the existing facility and constructing a purpose-built facility on a new site or purchasing alternative accommodation. Eventually, unable to find a suitable alternative and unable to continue operating the hospital as it was, the Board and Trustees made the decision to close St John of God Brighton Hospital.





After making appropriate arrangements for the Sisters, other caregivers and the ongoing care of patients, St John of God Brighton Hospital was officially closed on Friday 3 September 1999.

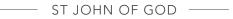
The money received from the sale of the hospital was held aside for future mental health care initiatives. In 2004 the ideal opportunity to continue the Sisters' good work in this area arose in the form of Pinelodge Clinic in Dandenong, Victoria.

#### IMAGES

**Top:** Patients enjoying a music therapy session at St John of God Brighton Hospital.

Above: Sr Florence Holligan and Sr Josephine Carroll playing music at Brighton Hospital. Music played a prominent and important role in therapy at Brighton Hospital.

Opposite page: St John of God Brighton Hospital.



# PINELODGE CLINIC

Times have changed. The buildings have changed. There have been many people through the doors. The one thing that remains the same at Pinelodge Clinic today is a strong belief in the St John of God Health Care Values and Mission, which underpin everything we do.





P inelodge Clinic in Dandenong is located 30 kilometres outside of Melbourne and delivers psychiatric and drug and alcohol rehabilitation services. The Clinic's clients come for the many day services run by therapists or can be accommodated in the acute hospital for the duration of their recovery.

Pinelodge Clinic was purchased by St John of God Health Care in 2005 using funds set aside for future investment in mental health services from the sale in 1999 of St John of God Brighton Hospital, a mental health hospital established by the Sisters in 1949 to care for returned soldiers from the war suffering from mental illness.

Pinelodge Clinic's consulting suites were refurbished in 2012 to maximise the services and resources offered to patients. A grant from the Australian Catholic University facilitated the transformation of an older property on the premises into a modern training facility for student nurses and caregivers.





#### IMAGES

**Top:** The chef and his team prepare delicious and nutritious meals for patients in the clinic's kitchen.

Above: Art therapy is particularly helpful for people who find it difficult to express their feelings.

**Opposite page above:** *Pinelodge caregivers outside the refurbished consulting suites.* 

**Opposite page below:** "The Sisters' approach at St John of God Brighton Hospital of respectful, just and compassionate relationships between caregivers, patients, their families and the community continues at Pinelodge today," said Chief Executive Officer Graham Cadd. Penny was a patient at Pinelodge Clinic between 2005 and 2008. The tragic death of her husband triggered her illness and left her under a lot of stress. "I had a lot of grief," she said. "I had substance abuse battles as well, but Pinelodge was a godsend. I've had my battles. You have to watch yourself closely, you can feel yourself slipping."

Pinelodge Clinic has a team of professionals who are specially trained to guide and care for people like Penny in a supportive, holistic environment, helping them to regain control of their lives and addictions.

## Rainer Schnelle was the Community Representative at Pinelodge for five years,

from 2008 to 2013. This role provides patients with access to a caregiver with personal experience in mental illness. Battling chronic depression himself for more than half his life helped Rainer to relate to patients.

A family history of mental illness and the pressures of teenage life, along with the death of his father, caused Rainer's illness to progress. Rainer advocated for seeking help as the best way to get on the path to recovery.





#### IMAGES

**Top:** Community Representative Rainer Schnelle (right) chatting to Andrew Somerville from Pastoral Care Services.

Left: Pinelodge caregivers have for many years supported the Ermha Community Breakfast Club, volunteering their time and sharing their expertise in the weekly Big Breakfast program for local people living with a mental health condition who are training to re-enter the hospitality workforce.

Opposite page top: Triage Nurse Ailsa Tate.

**Opposite page below:** The unique Origins service helps new migrants to Australia who are suffering from a mental illness.

### Whether a first experience of Pinelodge Clinic is over the phone or in person,

patients, friends and family are greeted by Triage Nurse Ailsa Tate. For eight years Ailsa has occupied this pivotal role that sees her managing patients at various stages of crisis. Perfectly balancing her caring nature and empathy with her professionalism, skills and knowledge, Ailsa quickly develops a rapport with people.

Ailsa's career began with St John of God on 1 April 1976, as a young nurse at the St John of God Brighton Hospital.

"The Sisters were kind people who took patients of all religions and demographics into their care, just as Pinelodge Clinic does," said Ailsa.



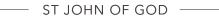


When St John of God Health Care took over Pinelodge Clinic in 2005 it extended a helping hand into the community to assist services that care for the uninsured in the community who suffer from chronic mental illness.

In 2008 the Clinic partnered with community group Ermha to establish a unique service called Origins to help recently arrived immigrants to Australia who were living in the local area and suffering from serious mental illness.

These immigrants faced the burden of their disease while also confronted with other challenges around employment, housing and finance, as well as adjusting to a new culture and language.

Committed to developing and maintaining longterm supportive relationships with clients wherever possible, Origins seeks to draw family members and other carers into the recovery process.



# **GOULBURN HOSPITAL**

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE FROM 1989 TO 2005

St John of God Health Care, by actively embracing its Vision, Mission and Values, contributes to the health capacity of its communities.





O riginally established by the Sisters as a private acute care hospital, the New South Wales based St John of God Goulburn Hospital became classified as a publicly funded hospital in 1979 at which time the hospital changed to providing services for the aged and rehabilitation.

By 1993 the hospital provided a range of services including aged care assessment, rehabilitation, geriatric medical care, palliative care, day centre, oncology, hydrotherapy, brain injury rehabilitation and care of confused and disturbed elderly adults.

The financial viability of the hospital was called into question during 2003 due to Government underfunding and the reluctance of the health authority, Greater Southern Area Health Service, to agree to program cuts.

St John of God Health Care indicated its decision not to continue managing the hospital and on 30 June 2005 the hospital was transferred to Greater Southern Area Health Service.

### IMAGES

Top: St John of God Goulburn Hospital. Below: Preparing lunch together in the brain injury unit.

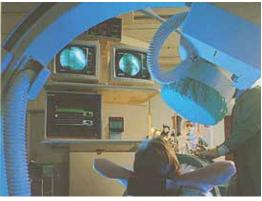


## IMAGING

## PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE FROM 1998 TO 2006

Our Mission is our purpose for being, our reason for existence. It guides the choices we make and how we implement these choices.





In 1992 a joint venture to provide imaging services at St John of God Geelong Hospital was formed between Geelong Radiological Clinic and the hospital.

St John of God Health Care purchased the imaging business from Geelong Radiological Clinic in 1998, by which time the group was providing radiology, nuclear medicine and ultrasound and breast screening services out of Ballarat Hospital.

In 2004 the imaging services at Geelong and Ballarat Hospitals were amalgamated to form St John of God Imaging.

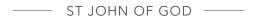
A range of factors including difficulties in attracting staff, competition and onerous capital requirements made the future of the imaging services uncertain.

Realising that others were better equipped to run a quality service, St John of God Health Care sold the bulk of its imaging services in 2006, retaining only the general imaging services at Ballarat Hospital.

#### IMAGES

Top: Reviewing medical imaging results.

**Below:** State-of-the-art medical imaging equipment for its time in operation at Geelong Radiological Clinic in the 1990s.



# ACCORD

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 2007

The best possible outcome for our clients who live with intellectual disabilities is that they discover the richness and fullness of their lives, that they have a reason to hope and a greater sense of their own dignity.



#### IMAGE

Above: Sensory equipment at ACES Western day service invites residents to express themselves through light, sound and touch. Maryanne Russell, Instructor at ACES West encourages Daniel to test out the newly installed interactive curved music chimes. A cross Melbourne, St John of God Accord is providing homes, job prospects and support for people living with intellectual disabilities. The service is delivered with consideration for individuals: their abilities, their circumstances and their desires.

Accord became a part of the St John of God Health Care group in 2007 when the group took on the responsibility for managing the Hospitaller Order of St John of God's Australian and New Zealand health care services.

Changes in the direction of Government policy in recent years were welcomed as they will enable services such as these to continue to help people to live within their community and to give people with a disability the option to choose from a range of support services.

Accord's Day Service in Greensborough is a meeting point for clients where participation in activities is encouraged. A new purpose-built facility on this site is planned to promote further community engagement for people over 18 years of age, offering a diverse range of services to enhance each individual's capabilities and help them meet their individual goals and aspirations.





#### IMAGES

**Top:** Some of the inaugural group of clients who completed the first unit of their studies in work education. Back row, from left to right: Clint Richardson, David Bruma (Program Facilitator), Matt Villuni, Tafe student, Tafe student, Karen Bennett (staff member) and Darren Galea; front row, from left to right: Melissa Caggigi, Tafe student, Terry Pandazoglous and Natasha Fernandez.

Above: At ACES Northern in Greensborough, Daniel Maloney, Team Leader (left) and Steven Williams, Accommodation Manager (right) support client Andrew Crossling (centre) in both active community engagement and in his shared supported accommodation. The desire of a group of Accord clients to be part of the "real world", which to them meant joining the workforce, set Bill Chalker on a path to establish Accord's Work Preparation Program. After successfully completing Bill's 12-month course, ten very excited young adults set off to college for the next year to complete a work education module at Kangan TAFE in Broadmeadows that would further their employment prospects.

Articulate, intelligent and fun, Monica Lazzari is a 28year old client in the Accord Community Engagement

**Services** (ACES) individual support program. One of five sisters from a loving home, Monica always wanted to live independently especially as she watched her friends seek out their own independence during their 20s.

Monica and her Accord worker Julie worked together on a transition plan and over three years the pair would overcome a number of hurdles and obstacles to realise Monica's dream. Monica now lives in her own permanent home, a part of the Uniting Church, with a community centre and a chapel. Her greatest joy in her new home is knowing that she is there are as long as she wants to be, as home is where the heart is.





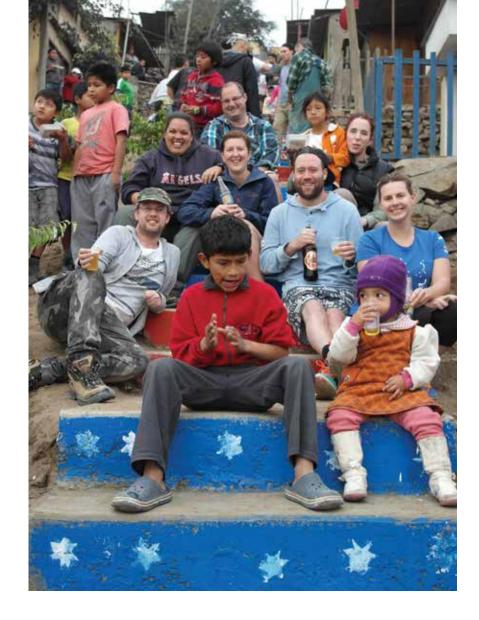
## Mary Hemingway's artistic talent is unique: the use of bold bright colours and strong effortless lines are visible in the painted ceramics around her. Born in Melbourne in 1928, Mary is a client of St John of God Accord and part of a well-established Accord pottery program.

Mary has found her place in the tranquillity of her art and at 85 years of age shows no signs of slowing down. Having exhibited much of her work and won numerous competitions, Mary's talent is well known in the community, and she has had work commissioned by organisations such as the Department of Human Services, Community Support Worker Awards and St John of God Health Care. I had the opportunity to participate in a St John of God Health Care missionimmersion experience in Peru in the shanty village of Pamplona Alta. Our project involved constructing 80 metres of concrete stairs that would create access to homes, connect communities and give the community leverage to barter with the government for further infrastructure.

There were no plans, no regulations, no project meetings, no engineers, nothing... except a rocky hill, concrete and a will to get the job done. Despite significant language barriers, we united through the collection of rocks and lifting 40 kilo bags of concrete for mixing. Bucket by bucket, the project team grew as local families joined in. We shared in the experience and discovered a common humanity.

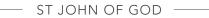
We felt enormous pride in what we had achieved as a St John of God Health Care team and a pilgrimage group, both individually and collectively.

Peter Newsome, ACES Western Manager, pictured on the steps in the checked shirt.





Julie Reynolds is a true advocate for people with disabilities, having worked in the sector for 17 years including six with Accord. Julie is also an accomplished poet and she takes much of her inspiration from those around her. Julie scribed the poem on page 150 for her client and friend Monica.



# **BURWOOD HOSPITAL**

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 2007

Our Christian heritage inspires us to support our clients to develop skills that will help them to reconnect and reintegrate into community and family life as fully as possible.





S t John of God Burwood Hospital became a part of St John of God Health Care in 2007 when the group took on responsibility for the operations of the Hospitaller Order of St John of God services in Australia and New Zealand.

Burwood Hospital, established by the Brothers of St John of God in 1958, provides mental health services, including highly specialised perinatal care for mothers and babies. The hospital also runs a social outreach and advocacy service known as Casa Venegas that operates community-based homes in inner and western Sydney for people with chronic mental health conditions who would otherwise be homeless.

A major upgrade and expansion to the hospital completed in 2014 included a new Chapel, which is open to the community for Sunday service and to the hospital's patients for reflection and solace.

#### IMAGES

**Top:** The hospital provides a multidisciplinary approach to mental health treatment. **Below:** The hospital front in 2014 after the redevelopment works.





#### IMAGES

**Top:** The hospital provides highly specialised perinatal care for mothers and babies.

Above: Executive Director Eastern Hospitals Tracey Burton, University of New South Wales Chair and Director Perinatal and Womens Mental Health Unit Prof Marie-Paule Austin, Journalist and Patron of the 'beyondblue' Perinatal Mental Health Program, Jessica Rowe and Chief Executive Officer Burwood Hospital June Mattner at the opening of the new mother and baby unit on 11 March 2013. A new counselling and therapy centre was built for day programs and an expanded mother and baby unit helped to meet growing demand for the hospital's unique care.

Perinatal care is the care of mother and baby before and after the birth of a child and is a specialist area of service and research at St John of God Burwood Hospital. A multidisciplinary team under the leadership of Professor Marie-Paule Austin, Director of Perinatal and Women's Mental Health Unit for St John of God Burwood and the University of New South Wales, carries out valuable ongoing research in collaboration with the University of New South Wales.

The mother and baby unit has the facility for babies to stay with their mothers up to the age of 12 months to help develop a secure attachment. The mother's partner is also able to stay overnight at the unit, which allows the partner to also bond with the baby.





In 1995, I was persuaded by Sr Patricia, a founder of Casa Venegas, to volunteer in the service. Six months later I became an employee.

I recall a beautiful client who has since passed away. At the age of 19 he fell ill in Papua New Guinea shortly after completing his electrical apprenticeship. His family brought him back to Sydney and admitted him to a mental health hospital. After being discharged from the hospital he spent the next 40 years of his life either in boarding houses or sleeping rough before being helped by us. He once said of Casa Venegas: "This is the only home I have ever known".

At his funeral, his sister spoke of his life before mental illness, but not once did she mention his life with mental illness. How sad that this side of life is still not talked about, as we had witnessed the best of his life.

Sandra Provan was the Service Manager at Casa Venegas for 18 years.

#### IMAGES

Left: The inaugural service at the new Chapel in 2013 was conducted by Brother John Gibson OH, third from left, pictured here with Hospitaller Order Brothers Joseph Smith, Brian Egan, Terry Tehan, Martin Quarmby and Vincent Kunnel.

Opposite page top: Twenty female Burwood caregivers raised more than \$7,000 for breast cancer research when they competed in the 2012 Dragon Abreast Australia Festival.

Opposite page below: Dr Peter Hansen.



There has been an increase in demand for all types of mental health programs over the years in line with greater recognition and acceptance of mental illness as a disability and increasing treatment options. More patients are seeking out the hospital's day programs ranging from therapy and counselling to living skills.

An experienced team of health professionals, including onsite consultant psychiatrists, help treat patients suffering from anxiety, depression and gambling addiction.

Burwood was one of the first hospitals to offer help to people with an online gaming addiction through a program launched in 2012. Other treatment programs focus on building healthy relationships and providing quality of life support for the elderly.

Burwood's outreach service assists patients who have been discharged from hospital to improve their wellbeing and enhance their personal growth. This helps them with reconnecting and reintegrating into community and family life.

# Dr Peter Hansen has worked at Burwood Hospital for over

**41 years** and is a member of the Burwood Hospital Medical Advisory Committee and chair of the Burwood Hospital Drug Advisory Committee. In 2011, Dr Hansen was awarded the Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists New South Wales Meritorious Service Award for his pioneering efforts in making Clozapine, an effective drug for schizophrenia, available for safe use in New South Wales.

Dr Hansen ignored the sceptics and used Clozapine to treat a patient with severe schizophrenia, ensuring the patient received weekly monitoring blood tests. The outcome for the patient was excellent and Dr Hansen, in conjunction with several colleagues and the hospital, went on to establish one of the largest private Clozapine clinics in Australia.



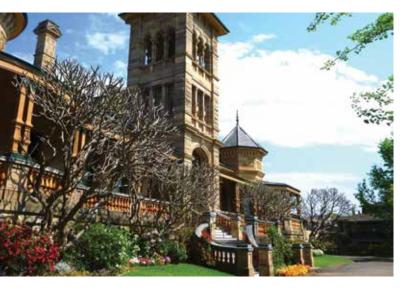
SERVICES

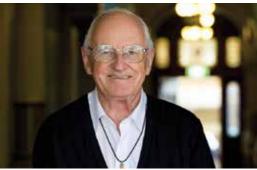


## **RICHMOND HOSPITAL**

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 2007

Caregivers at St John of God Richmond Hospital walk with people in their vulnerability, fear and isolation, recognising that the journey to wellness and self sufficiency requires each and every person to feel welcome, listened to and accepted.





S t John of God Richmond Hospital, established by the Hospitaller Order of St John of God in 1952, joined the group in 2007 when St John of God Health Care took on responsibility for running the Hospitaller Order of St John of God's Australian and New Zealand services.

Richmond Hospital caregivers continue the story of healing and hospitality modelled by the Brothers, offering programs for people suffering from mental illness. This hospitality is expressed through incorporation of the St John of God Health Care Values and commitment to holistic care and includes a personal welcome to every patient and their family on admission by the hospital's Pastoral Practitioners.

#### IMAGES

Above: Belmont House, the original St John of God Richmond Hospital, continues to be a place of healing for patients and caregivers.

Below: Brother John Gibson has spent most of his religious life working at Richmond Hospital. His legacy of extending hospitality in ways that are life-giving and respectful of each person's dignity lives on in the care offered at Richmond.





**Top:** The hospital appointed Professor John Saunders, a World Health Organisation advisory panellist for substance abuse, as the coordinator of the substance dependence disorders and gambling addiction program.

Above: The Allied Health team design, implement and evaluate all inpatient and outpatient therapy programs in consultation with other clinical caregivers and medical staff. Through a holistic approach to patient care, Richmond Hospital caregivers commit to enhancing each patient's wellbeing by recognising their physical, intellectual, social and spiritual needs. Analysis of the various assessments conducted on admission enables the development of a treatment path that meets the individual needs of patients. The recently introduced spiritual assessment on admission is the first of its kind for St John of God Health Care.

The hospital has four psychiatry wards and associated treatment programs for post traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and mood disorders, psychogeriatric and psychosis disorders, and substance dependence disorders and gambling addiction.

A partnership in 2014 with the University of New South Wales through the appointment of Professor Zachary Steele, Professorial Chair in Trauma & Mental Health, expanded the hospital's post traumatic stress disorder research program.

**Right:** Richmond Hospital's treatment programs, such as art therapy, help build patient confidence and the capacity to communicate and apply skills.

Below: Pictured at the opening of the Blacktown Raphael Centre in 2012 are (from left to right) Professor Bryanne Barnett, Raphael Centre Manager Maya Drum, Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford, former Richmond Hospital Chief Executive Officer and Director of Nursing Allison Campbell, and former Executive Director Richmond and Burwood Hospitals Ramon Del Carmen.

**Opposite page:** *The hospital gardens provide a therapeutic environment for patients.* 





Richmond Hospital has a long standing history of treating service men and women with post traumatic stress disorder and other psychological injuries.

In 1994, the first treatment program in Australia for Vietnam veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder commenced at Richmond Hospital. In recent years, significant numbers of police, fire, ambulance and paramedic services personnel have sought out the hospital for its treatment expertise.

All treatment programs are designed to enable patients to practise skills while in hospital that will assist their ongoing recovery when they return home. Programs include mindfulness and meditation techniques, art therapy and the Quality of Life program. Richmond Hospital's awardwinning gardens contribute significantly to the hospital as a place of healing. The

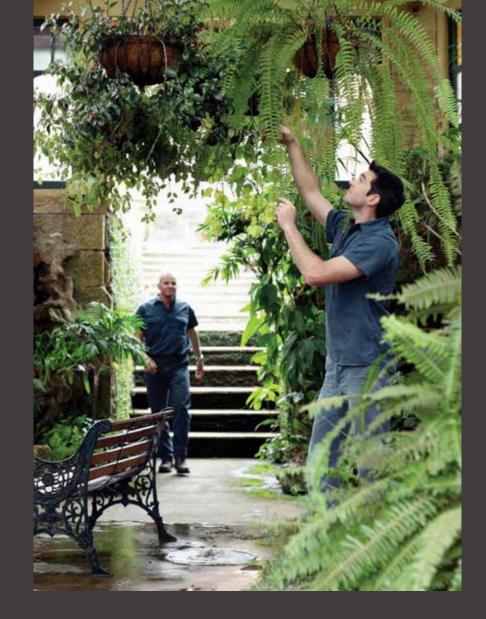
stunning gardens and floral displays that are produced by the hospital's gardeners are an essential part of the therapy that patients experience during their admission.

#### Dear Horticulturalists,

I had an extended stay at St John of God Richmond Hospital. Although I do not know any of you by name, the beauty, peace and grace of the gardens, plants and trees brought me some solace.

When my carer came to visit, we would walk in the gardens. She would take great delight in explaining to me the love, care, variety and tenderness that goes into the gardens. When I felt very anxious and depressed, I would go into the garden for some peace and quiet.

Thank you.





In 2008, Professor Bryanne Barnett, an international pioneer in perinatal mental health, joined Richmond Hospital. Professor Barnett guided the development of a service to support women suffering mental illness, during their pregnancy and after giving birth, as well as their families. In 2010, this service moved from the hospital into the community of Blacktown as the first Raphael Centre to be established by St John of God Health Care in New South Wales.

Raphael caregivers also provide education and support in the rural communities of Tamworth, Moree and in southern New South Wales. SERVICES



# HAUORA TRUST

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 2007

When people in New Zealand find out that I work for St John God Hauora Trust invariably the response I get is how one of their loved ones or someone they know was lovingly cared for by our services. This is the reason I am proud of our organisation.





S t John of God Hauora Trust is based in the city of Christchurch on New Zealand's South Island and was formed in 2008 by the consolidation of St John of God Health and Disability Services and St John of God Waipuna Youth and Community Trust, both of which joined St John of God Health Care in 2007.

St John of God Hauora Trust provides two distinct services – health and disability services, and community, youth and child services.

Health and disability services offer residential and respite support in Christchurch at St John of God Halswell and in Wellington, on the North Island of New Zealand at St John of God Wellington, for adults living with physical or neurological impairments. Hauora Trust's residential and respite programs are about ensuring each person lives life to the full and leads a life that is as 'ordinary' as possible.





**Top:** *A young family participating in Waipuna's Watch Wait and Wonder program.* 

Above: Lunch at St John of God Wellington.

**Opposite page top:** *St John of God Halswell caregivers* prepare to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of a golden elm tree, planted 25 years after the Sisters of the Good Shepherd established their community on this site in Christchurch in 1888.

**Opposite page below:** *St John of God Wellington resident Dan is off into town for the afternoon in St John of God Wellington's* special wheelchair-accessible van.

Community, youth and child services are provided through Christchurch-based St John of God Waipuna, which helps young people and young families through life's hardships and challenges. By building the confidence of young parents, the Trust helps them to create a better life for themselves and their children. Its drug and alcohol programs develop leadership skills and help to develop self confidence in its clients.

#### Health and disability services

St John of God Halswell is developing outpatient neurological rehabilitation facilities and a holistic range of options that are individually designed to achieve the best rehabilitation outcome possible for each person.



The Halswell residential facility is taking the learnings from the community homes model to provide an environment where people living with a disability are given opportunities to truly live and experience life.

Through the acquisition of St John of God Wellington in 2010, Hauora Trust's health and disability services have grown significantly in the last five years with bed numbers for adults with severe neurological or physical disabilities increasing from 52 to 107. The modern facility in Wellington and its community-inclusive team of caregivers help residents to pursue their social, educational, sporting and employment interests and goals.

#### Former Chair of the Hauora Trust Governing Board

Garry Donnithorne was awarded the Papal Cross of Honour for his distinguished services to the Catholic Church and the Pope.

The medal is the highest accolade that can be awarded to a non-ordained member of the Church and was presented to Garry by the Chair of the Hauora Trust Governing Board Bevan Killick on behalf of Pope Francis I.

Garry oversaw the growth of the St John of God ministry in New Zealand from residential and respite support for people living with disability at a site in Halswell, Christchurch, to a coordinated organisation that now also includes a Trust Office and community, youth and child services in Christchurch, and disability residential and respite support in Wellington.

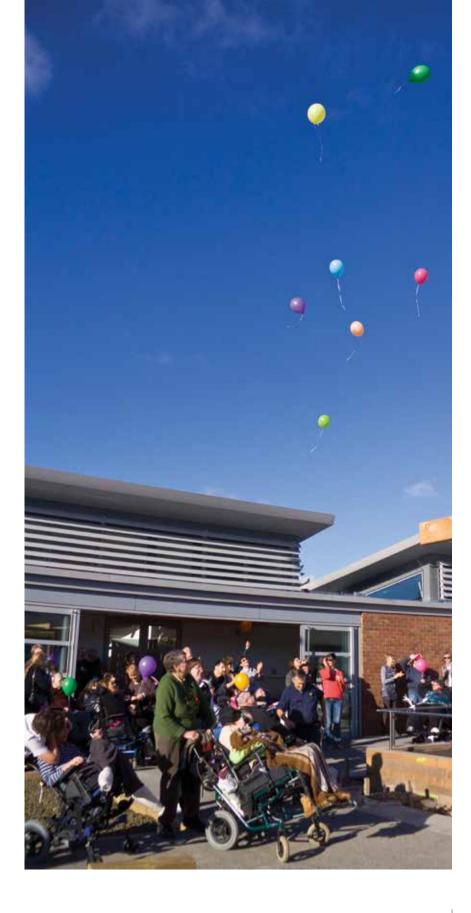
#### In 2011, the city of Christchurch suffered a catastrophic earthquake

that severely damaged the city, killing 185 people. The tragic event and its aftermath had a significant impact on St John of God Hauora Trust's Christchurch caregivers, clients and services. Its historic 100year old chapel was unable to be used again and the old Granada building which housed physiotherapy had to be demolished. The new Halswell rehabilitation wing was built in its place and opened in 2013.

#### IMAGES

**Right:** *Residents release helium balloons at the opening of the new Halswell rehabilitation wing.* 

Opposite page: Papal Cross of Honour awardee Garry Donnithorne. From left to right: Marion Cowden (Hauora Trust Trustee), Joanne Hope (National Manager Mission), Jacqueline Killick, Bevan Killick (Hauora Trust Board Chair), Sarah Mather (Hauora Trust Trustee), Garry Donnithorne (Forner Hauora Trust Board Chair), Sheryl Donnithorne and Moana-o-Hinerangi (Hauora Trust Trustee).



#### Sapphire came to St John of God Halswell with no funding for rehabilitation. She was

unable to speak or eat, she was incontinent and immobile and she weighed 120 kgs. The only movement she had in her right arm was a flick of her thumb. The rehabilitation and therapy team along with nursing staff began working with her and decided that she had more potential than had been indicated.

Sapphire's progression with her rehabilitation enabled her to transfer to a new community home in Rolleston. She is able to walk short distances, self propel in her manual wheelchair, feed herself, attend to her own personal hygiene and she can talk! She attends a mixed abilities dance group and performed in their annual production. Sapphire has been reunited with her son who has been in prison. Unfortunately her husband died in 2012 but Halswell was able to hold his service on site.



#### Community, youth and child services

St John of God Waipuna delivers an innovative range of programs for young people and young families, providing support as well as opportunities for development.

Waipuna's Watch, Wait and Wonder program is child-led therapy offered to young parents to enhance attachment between child and parent. This helps them form healthy relationships with their child and learn how to respond appropriately to their child's cues. The young parents' service, which also includes ante-natal preparation and parenting skills, has a particular emphasis on encouraging young dads to participate.

#### IMAGES

Above: Sapphire enjoys her session with occupational therapist Alana.

**Opposite page top:** *Children playing at the Waipuna Early Childhood Centre.* 

**Opposite page below:** *Participants in Waipuna's adventure therapy program for young adults.*  A young woman whose child attends Waipuna's Early Childhood Centre told the teachers that she "feels like a real mum now" since they linked her in with a vegetable co-operative and taught her how to prepare simple, nutritious meals for

her baby.

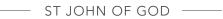




With the expansion of Waipuna's services, a dedicated youth housing worker was appointed to assist vulnerable young people in Christchurch who found themselves homeless after the devastating earthquakes of 2011.

The Youth Mental Health Service sees up to 1,000 young people a year with mental health conditions like eating disorders and alcohol and drug issues. The service attracts clients that would not typically approach mainstream services.

An outdoor adventure program is focused on self-challenge and learning for young people, to develop leadership and life skills and increase selfconfidence and resilience. Families are encouraged to participate so they can support and monitor young people in their efforts to change behaviours. SERVICES



# HEALTH CHOICES

In 1871, when the Sisters first formed their congregation in Ireland, they began caring for people in their homes, bringing their special gifts of hope and companionship into the lives of the sick. Health Choices is proud to continue the tradition and is growing to provide more care in the comfort of the home.





S t John of God Heath Choices was launched in July 2009 to create a service dedicated to providing care options to patients outside of the traditional hospital environment. Because of this service patients are able to maintain their independence, potentially avoid a hospital admission and receive care in the comfort and privacy of their own home.

The service started out of home nursing services run by the Subiaco, Ballarat and Warrnambool hospitals. The acquisition of a Melbourne home nursing service in 2010 paved the way for Health Choices to expand its community nursing services across Victoria.

Health Choices has also started to deliver health care from bases in Bendigo, Berwick, Murdoch and Mandurah.

Health Choices delivers acute nursing services for Ambulance Victoria, responding within four hours of a call to 000 for a limited range of conditions assessed by Ambulance Victoria's 000 Referral Service as being suitable for nursing care. Health Choices nurses also link patients with appropriate community services to prevent recurrence of similar problems.





**Top:** Patient, Mr Elso Arendshorst receiving care in his home from Health Choices Nurse Denise Foster.

Above: Steve Hall, Chief Executive Officer Health Choices, hands over a cheque to John Blewonski, Chief Executive Officer VincentCare Victoria to help fund the Ozanam House art therapy and fitness programs.

**Opposite page top:** Providing health care anywhere, Health Choices nurses visit patients across Victoria and Western Australia.

**Opposite page below:** Ambulance Victoria's 000 Referral Service communication centre.

Health Choices works with a number of public hospitals in metropolitan and regional areas to follow up patients who have been recently discharged from hospital.

An example of such collaboration is a partnership with The Alfred hospital in Melbourne, a major tertiary hospital and state-wide specialist referral and trauma centre. Health Choices visits 25 to 40 patients of The Alfred hospital every month helping them transition from their hospital stay back into their home.

Health Choices caregivers provide nursing and personal care to war veterans and their partners living at home by assisting them with the management of personal hygiene, chronic disease and age and armed service related conditions and injuries.



Health Choices formed a partnership with Calvary Silver Circle in Victoria, creating a strong bond between the two services and preserving the excellent standard of care for veterans, patients and their families.

By funding a dedicated youth counsellor for VincentCare Victoria's Glenroy Community Hub youth service, Health Choices helps young people at risk of homelessness in the north and west of Melbourne.

Health Choices also supports an art therapy and group fitness program delivered by VincentCare Victoria's Ozanam House in Melbourne, a crisis accommodation service for men. Warrnambool Health Choices caregivers host an annual Christmas lunch for their

patients. The lunch started out of concern for elderly patients who had minimal social contact or family support at what can be a lonely time of the year.

A delicious three-course lunch is hosted, prepared, and served by caregivers who give generously of their time and energy to make this a special, festive occasion.

Each patient receives a gift and all are encouraged to join in the Christmas carol singalong.

Warrnmabool Health Choices patient Margaret Madden and Enrolled Nurse Emma Beasley enjoyed the 2013 annual patient Christmas party provided by Health Choices Warrnambool.



Left: Health Choices Service Development Manager Wayne Massuger and Nurse Manager Health Choices Warrnambool Judy Stewart proudly display the 2012 Warrnambool Powercor Business Excellence Award acknowledging Health Choices Warrnambool's achievements in the 'New business under 5 years' category.

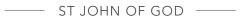
Below: Esther Foundation Administrator Rod Lavater, Health Choices Registered Nurse Glenys Blackett, Nurse Manager Sarah Goy, Esther Foundation Director Patricia Lavater, and Health Choices Director of Mission Michael Trainor with items donated to the Esther Foundation.

Health Choices funds the creative arts program and a resources library for the Esther Foundation, an organisation that supports young women experiencing life difficulties by providing a safe, structured and supportive environment.

Health Choices Warrnambool was recognised in the 'New business under 5 years' category for its achievement in establishing a new community based nursing and personal care service. The judges commended Health Choices on having "clear and well defined business model and plans that will ensure sustainability and long term growth".



**SERVICES** 



### FOUNDATION

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 2010

We are overwhelmed by the amount of time, services and funds donated to St John of God Foundation's fund raising causes as a result of friendships and trust forged over many years. Such generosity creates a lasting link between the Foundation and its communities to support services delivered by St John of God Health Care.



#### IMAGE

Above: Dr Jack Bendat CitWA, naming rights benefactor, spoke at the opening of the Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre on 18 July 2007. The Bendat family contributed \$5 million towards a successful capital fund raising campaign that collected over \$20 million towards the cancer centre established in the grounds of St John of God Subiaco Hospital. Dr Bendat was the Campaign President and championed the cause, personally attracting many corporate gifts that contributed to the success of the campaign. S t John of God Foundation was established in 1992 by the Sisters of St John of God to continue the ministry of their outreach services. Up until the formation of the Foundation the Sisters were addressing community needs through an Unmet Community Needs Program.

The Sisters transferred the Foundation to St John of God Health Care in 2010, entrusting the organisation to take responsibility for ensuring the continuity of its important work.

The Foundation has strong relationships with a large number of benefactors who have demonstrated their high regard for the work of St John of God Health Care by enthusiastically contributing time and financial support. Over 20 years, donors and benefactors have contributed a remarkable \$35 million for projects developed by the Foundation, not to mention contributions of gifts in kind.





Top: Horizon House Wilson, which opened in February 2003, provides supported accommodation for homeless youth and was the first Horizon House established in Western Australia.

Above: Then Federal Health Minister the Hon Tony Abbott unveiled the plaque for the Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre on 18 July 2007. Pictured at the unveiling are, from left to right, the Hon Tony Abbott, Archbishop Barry Hickey and Professor Michael Quinlan. In 2003 St John of God Foundation established Horizon House, an initiative that provides accommodation and support to homeless youth, and actively managed the houses until St John of God Health Care took on this role in 2010. The first Horizon House in Western Australia, Horizon House Wilson, opened in February 2003. By 2014 there were 11 Horizon House services assisting homeless youth across Australia.

People from all over Australia have helped the Foundation raise funds for vital projects that to date include Horizon House, Murdoch Community Hospice, the Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre and the South West Coronary Care and Cancer Unit.

An important activity the Foundation undertakes is to conduct feasibility studies for fundraising campaigns before launching any campaigns.





**Top:** Santos Great Bike Ride for Charity – 20 November 2011.

Above: A patient undergoes chemotherapy treatment at the Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre. St John of God Foundation is involved in regular fund raising initiatives for Horizon House through annual events such as the Santos Great Bike Ride and the Corporate Charity Golf Day. Many St John of God Health Care caregivers and their families show their support by taking part in these events as volunteers or registered participants.

The Foundation works with a research focus group for the Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre, to raise funds for medical research. The group was formed by major donors to the Cancer Centre fundraising appeal and focuses on supporting new research being undertaken at the Cancer Centre, specialist researchers and the purchase of specialised equipment.



Left: The Lighthouse Project, now known as Horizon House, was launched in 2003. Dr Michael Stanford, the Hon Mike Board and project ambassador Guy McKenna are pictured here at the launch of the service.

Below left: An annual golf day that includes a dinner and auction is organised by St John of God Foundation to raise funds for Horizon House.

Below right: Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford (left) and Group Manager Youth Services Hon Mike Board greet the Governor of Western Australia, Governor Malcolm McCusker, at the event village for the Santos Great Bike Ride for Charity in 2012. Governor McCusker is the patron of Horizon House and played a key role in the Santos Great Bike Ride for Charity in 2012.





#### – ST JOHN OF GOD —

### MIDLAND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS

OPENING IN 2015

The development of the St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals is a transformational milestone for St John of God Health Care that will deliver new public and private health care services to the growing community in the north eastern corridor of Perth and people living in the adjacent wheatbelt region.



S t John of God Health Care reached agreement with the Western Australian Government in June 2012 to build and operate the St John of God Midland Public Hospital on the Midland Health Campus. This Public Private Partnership model of service delivery over a 23 year period will enable St John of God Health Care to increase its provision of public health care services and extend its Mission into a new and diverse community.

#### IMAGES

Top: Signing the contract with the Western Australian Government to build the new St John of God Midland Public Hospital are Brookfield Multiplex Regional Managing Director Chris Palandri, Premier Colin Barnett, State Minister for Health Dr Kim Hames, St John of God Health Care Directors Kerry Sanderson and Tony Baker, and Brookfield Multiplex Chief Executive Officer John Flecker.

Below: A commemorative pomegranate tree was hoisted onto the roof as part of a 'topping out' ceremony held as the building reached full height in November 2013. The tree will be planted and nurtured in the grounds of the new hospitals.





Top: Laying the hospitals' first foundation in 2012 were St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford, Federal Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek, Brookfield Multiplex Regional Managing Director Chris Palandri and State Minister for Health Dr Kim Hames.

Above: A group of committed youth volunteers from the Shire of Mundaring helped organise a highly successful open air youth music festival, an event made possible by the hospitals' community wellbeing grants program. St John of God Midland Public Hospital will replace the existing Swan District Hospital, which will close its doors after serving the local community for more than 60 years. The new hospital is part of the Western Australian Government's initiative to deliver more health care services close to home by partnering with a private health care provider to build a larger hospital offering many new and expanded services.

Two hospitals, located in the same building, are being built. The State and Commonwealth Governments are jointly investing \$360 million in the public hospital and St John of God Health Care is fully funding the \$70 million private hospital.

The ability to extend the hospital to cope with projected population growth and health care needs has been incorporated into the design.



The new public hospital will deliver services not previously available locally including critical care, coronary care and chemotherapy. Other services like maternity, emergency, mental health, surgery and medicine will have a greater capacity than the Swan District Hospital.

St John of God Health Care is working closely with the local community to give them the hospital and services they want and need.

As well as being home to a diverse and rapidly growing population, the Midland Hospitals' catchment area has the highest urban Aboriginal population in Western Australia. Consultation with the local Aboriginal community is helping to shape the hospitals' design and service delivery.

#### IMAGES

**Top:** At the laying of the hospitals' first foundations Noongar elders Ben Taylor and Alf Taylor conducted a smoking ceremony to cleanse the site and ensure a spirit of reconciliation for the future.

**Right**: Members of St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals' management team survey the building progress. From left to right: Chief Executive Officer St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals Ian Anderson, Executive Director Perth Northern Hospitals Dr Lachlan Henderson and Director of Nursing St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals Jeffrey Williams.





Top: Local health care experts have their say on design and service delivery at the new public hospital. To ensure the best possible patient care and staff working environment, staff from WA Health, including Swan District Hospital, and St John of God Health Care took part in over 30 consultative user groups to consider services including emergency, maternity, paediatrics, critical care, mental health and aged care and rehabilitation.

Right: The Midland Hospitals were honoured to host the President and Members of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers when they visited the site as part of their Australian tour. The visitors from Rome were delighted to see the new hospital emerging and to hear of the excellent care provided for the community. Pictured from left to right are Brookfield Multiplex Project Manager Marc Van Heemst, President of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, Group Director Mission St John of God Health Care Jennifer Stratton, Chief Executive Officer St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals Ian Anderson, and Members of the Pontifical Council Monsignor Dariusz Giers and Father Piotr Supierz.



SERVICES

### 

JOINED ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE IN 2014

St John of God Health Care, working hard to align the two cultures, respectfully acknowledges the rich history and heritage of the hospital and the important place it holds in the community.





S t John of God Mt Lawley Hospital is new to St John of God Health Care, acquired by the group from Catholic health provider MercyCare in May of the 25th anniversary year.

The hospital is well known to the people of Perth as Mercy Hospital Mt Lawley and prior to that as St Anne's Hospital, having been established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1937.

From its early beginnings in the now heritage-listed Killowen House, and still today, the hospital is loved for its breathtaking position on the banks of the Swan River and cherished for the care it affords families from the birth of a child and throughout their lives.

Care at St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital starts with babies and continues for all ages in the surgical and medical domains, along with specialist services for older people and those with a mental illness.

#### IMAGES

Top: Nurses care for newborn babies in the hospital nursery in 1942 when it was known as St Anne's Hospital. Below: Proud parents cradle their precious new baby born in 2014 at St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital.





**Top:** *Dr* Wendy Cheng and Nurse Loretta Stanley are two of the many dedicated caregivers providing care to patients at the hospital.

**Above:** Heritage-listed Killowen House is the original St Anne's hospital.

Over its 76 years, the hospital has seen great changes in service delivery and to its facilities as the needs of the community have changed and the possibilities provided by new medical treatments and specialties have been realised.

In 2010 the hospital opened the State's first private inpatient and ambulatory specialist rehabilitation service. St John of God Health Care has committed to grow this service in line with the demand of patients and specialists.

In recent years the hospital faced an uncertain future as market forces made it more difficult to operate as a stand-alone private hospital.

As part of the St John of God Health Care group, the future for the hospital looks bright as its reputation for excellence in maternity, surgery, medicine and rehabilitation continues and is further developed.



Long term employee Rosemary Joyce believes one of the greatest lessons learned from the hospital's founding Sisters of Mercy was to accept change with grace and to move forward.

Rosemary holds great hope for the future and sees the transfer of the hospital to St John of God Health Care as "a way to go on and to preserve the spirit of the hospital".

Her hope is that the hospital will retain its sense of family that caregivers, patients and visiting doctors hold so dear. Rosemary believes it is this sense of family that makes staff members so loyal to the hospital.



In the words of the Archbishop of Perth, the most Rev Timothy Costelloe, the ceremonial blessing of St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital marked the continuation of Catholic health care in the proud Western Australian hospital.

The event on Friday 6 June 2014 saw the coming together of the Sisters of Mercy with the Sisters of St John of God and many of the lay people who have followed in their footsteps to continue the delivery of health care services.

The occasion acknowledged the historical significance of St Anne's Hospital and the role the Sisters of Mercy played in welcoming and sheltering the Irish Sisters of St John of God when they arrived in Perth in 1985 to help care for the sick. Sister Gertrude Willoughby was the first midwife at St Anne's Hospital. She quickly completed her training in midwifery after the Archbishop announced that the hospital would become a maternity hospital.

Sister Gertrude was a major presence in the maternity hospital for many years. She oversaw the introduction of incubators that would save the lives of premature babies, and the establishment of a midwifery school that operated from 1958 to 1981.

Sister Gertrude was so adored by the hospital community that on her passing the staff raised funds to commission a sculpture that would forever commemorate her contribution.





#### IMAGES

**Top:** The sculpture of mother, father and baby dedicated to Sr Gertrude has pride of place on an exterior wall. It symbolises the family bond that connects the hospital with its patients, visitors, caregivers and community.

Below: The hospital has a dedicated wing for the rehabilitation of older people where caregivers help patients to get back to being able to live independently in the community. SERVICES



# **GROUP SERVICES**

PART OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE SINCE 1989

The creation of a single entity called St John of God Health Care marked the start of a new organisation, one that developed into a major employer and a community leader, offering employment opportunities to clinical and non-clinical caregivers looking for professional opportunities and inspired by the Mission.





In the early days after St John of God Health Care was established there were, at most, six people working in 'group' roles to support the new organisation. What started as an office of six people based in the Sister's Subiaco Convent, in 2014 numbers around 350 caregivers over seven locations.

It would have been a far-sighted individual who could have foreseen the growth ahead. Sustaining that growth has required significant structural change over time to provide efficient, cost-effective operating systems to support the delivery of the organisation's services.

One of the first group support areas to emerge was the Information Technology team under John Southern, set up to establish a website and put in place limited email facilities as the technology revolution started to take off. The role and pace of technology in health care accelerated exponentially and the implementation of group wide information technology systems like Oracle, PAS and Risk Pro has been of fundamental importance to St John of God Health Care.





**Top:** John Warren, Mary Paekoff and Joe Monterosso in the O'Connor supply centre, which provides supplies to the Western Australian hospitals and pathology services.

Above: Joe O'Halloran was the organisation's first corporate solicitor, appointed in the early 1990's.

**Opposite page top:** Gabrielle Gross, Simone Scales, Chris Warren and Chris Gee, who between them have more than 100 years of service at St John of God Health Care.

**Opposite page below:** *Dr Mark Lubliner, Group Director Medical Services & Risk and Kate Birrell, Group Director Nursing are based at the Melbourne Group Services office.*  In 1991 banking arrangements started to be managed at a consolidated level, allowing St John of God Health Care to approach the banks for capital development funding from a position of strength.

These changes began a shift in thinking and the realisation that there was potential for providing cost-effective support in other areas while at the same time developing greater corporate expertise that would benefit all services.

In the early 1990s, Joe O'Halloran was appointed as first corporate solicitor, establishing a legal team to support the growing organisation, while John Warren started to investigate economies of scale for purchasing of medical and other supplies and equipment.



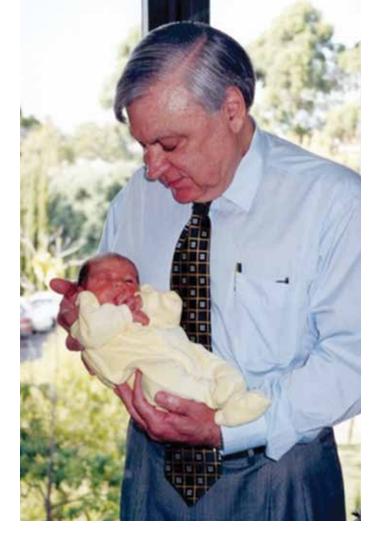
Left: Jennifer Stratton, the first lay Group Director of Mission, was appointed in 2000. Jennifer's appointment was part of a deliberate strategy by the Sisters who, inspired by the teachings of Vatican II, were confident to entrust the Mission of the organisation to lay leaders to carry on what they had begun.

Below: A major project to replace all conventional lights in St John of God Health Care facilities with energy efficient units saw the group named a finalist in the Victorian Premier's Sustainability Awards and win a Western Australian Environment Award as a corporate entity leading by example.

In the new century, changes accelerated. In 2000, the role of Group Director Mission, one of the six original Group Services' roles, was filled for the first time by a lay person, Jennifer Stratton. Social justice and pastoral care, part of St John of God Health Care's approach to holistic care and always important in achieving the Mission, received an increased focus and clear strategies were developed.

In 2002, newly appointed Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford set a new direction for the Group, characterised by growth through acquisitions and redevelopments and a strong emphasis on embedding the Mission into policies, processes and management structures. At this time St John of God Health Care employed 4,415 people; by 2013 caregivers numbered 9,922; by 2016 it is expected the organisation will employ 12,500 caregivers.





Significant structural changes were made at Group Services to support this growth and provide foundations for future plans. Services provided to the group started to expand in response to the general growth in scale and complexity of the organisation.

In an age of increasing communication a Marketing team was established and in 2008 an Environment team was created as part of embedding sustainability within the organisation, both as good business practice and an important part of the Mission.

Other changes were implemented, driven by the aspiration to have best practice and strong professional leadership in key clinical areas.

The role of National Director Health Services Development, held by Professor Con Michael, was refocused and retitled Group Director of Medical Services. This role expanded in 2013 under Dr Mark Lubliner to include enterprise risk management.

The part time role of Chief Nursing Officer was established in 2003 to provide strategic direction for the group's nursing and midwifery services. Kate Birrell was appointed to the role which later became full time and was retitled Group Director Nursing Services. In 2014 Kate still held this role. Consistent with the growth of the organisation a focus of this role more recently has been on ensuring a continuing workforce into the future.

#### IMAGES

Above: Professor Con Michael started working at St John of God Subiaco Hospital in 1968 as a consultant obstetrician and was appointed to the group role of National Director Health Services Development in 1999, which later evolved to become that of Group Director Medical Services. He forged links with State and Federal governments and medical colleges, establishing St John of God Health Care as a credible partner in medical workforce training.

**Right:** Group Director Finance Bryan Pyne, pictured here with his Executive Assistant Julie Sides, has worked for St John of God Health Care for 15 years. The Finance team has undergone significant growth and restructuring over the 25year history of St John of God Health Care to meet the complex needs of the growing organisation.









**Top left:** Finance caregiver Mary Tory has spent 38 years with the organisation, starting as a 'Pinkie' at St John of God Subiaco Hospital while she was still at school. One of her tasks was to hug babies. She later went into patient admissions before joining the Group Services Accounts Payable team.

Top right: Rita Maguire, Group Director Workforce.

Above: Kim Snowball was appointed as first Director Social Outreach and Advocacy and under his leadership the Strong Family, Strong Culture program to support Aboriginal families in the Pilbara was established. Providing personal and professional development to caregivers to enhance caregiver attraction, retention and performance led to the establishment of the Group Manager Learning and Organisational Development role in 2003.

A formal Social Outreach and Advocacy team was established in 2003 creating a shift from a chequebook approach to a centrally supported strategic delivery of social outreach services.

The Melbourne Office opened in 2003 run by a single employee, John Fogarty. Managed in 2014 by Executive Director Eastern Hospitals Tracey Burton, this office is integral to developing leading health care on the east coast. In 2013, more than 40 per cent of the group's caregivers were located on Australia's eastern seaboard.

In 2012, as part of preparing for future growth and the 2015 opening of the Midland Hospitals, a shared services review was undertaken that identified opportunities to offer services that were even more efficient, effective and scalable.



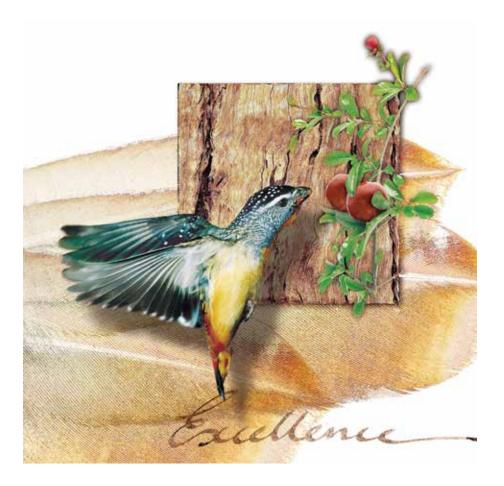
Left: The Emergency Department in East Timor's Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares, where St John of God's Nursing Development Program is helping to develop the country's nursing skills and training.

Below: Paediatric nurse Lance Jarvis with Timorese nurse Adelino Alves treat a sick child while the parents look on, as part of the Nursing Development Program in East Timor.

A number of significant changes were implemented across all services. Among them was the creation of the position of Group Director Workforce, filled by Rita Maguire, as St John of God Health Care faces the challenges of staffing the new Midland Public and Private Hospitals in north eastern Perth, and the creation of a new Finance centre in Perth bringing together Finance functions that had previously been located in services across the nation.

Change will continue but one thing is clear – St John of God Health Care as an organisation has become a major employer and a leader in health care and in the corporate sector. It offers rewarding career paths to high calibre individuals looking for professional challenges and a culture of excellence, people who are attracted to the Values and ideals encapsulated in the Mission.





 $^\circ$  ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE -

## **OUR FUTURE**

"The future is not some place we are going to but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found but made, and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination."

John Schaar



L ooking back over the 25 years since St John of God Health Care was formed we can appreciate and wonder at the way the organisation has evolved.

Like rowing a boat, it's clear to see where you've come from. But what of the future? Again, like rowing a boat, it's not easy to see where you're headed. How does the organisation continue to steer an appropriate course that is faithful to its founding inspiration and origins and at the same time relevant to the needs and contemporary demands of the community it is here to serve?

There is much to learn from the example of the founders. When the Sisters embarked on the multihospital system journey in 1989 they had a strong sense of identity and Mission, a well-considered view of the likely benefits of the course they were taking and a willingness to be entrepreneurial, take a risk and trust in people.

In the same way, St John of God Health Care will need to maintain a strong sense of identity and Mission as possibilities are assessed and decisions made about the future. Most importantly there will be a need to attract new people into the services who value what the organisation stands for and who can be trusted to help continue it.

There are hopeful signs that suggest people seek employers like St John of God Health Care that can provide positive workplace relationships, personal and career development and meaningful work. Relevant formation and education for both new and existing caregivers will remain ever important, so that St John of God Health Care remains faithful to its traditions and culture and continues to be an attractive and visionary place to work.



#### IMAGES

Above: Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford and Group Manager Executive Operations Lyn Jones prepare for the group's 2014 annual Strategic Planning Workshop.

**Opposite page:** Rory Alexander Bree, son of Berwick caregiver Gillian Coyle and partner Kieran Bree, was born at St John of God Berwick Hospital in February 2014.



It would be imprudent to predict exactly what will happen in the external environment in the next 25 years although there are some indicators that will need to be considered and responded to.

The population in Australia is ageing and this will shape future health care planning and requirements. Consumer expectations about choice and control are increasing. Technological advancement will transform what is possible at every point of service delivery.

Competition for scarce resources is likely to increase, necessitating service providers to become more and more efficient or to consider consolidation, with smaller health care providers at most risk. St John of God Health Care will need to ensure it can endure in order to support the Catholic health care sector's contribution to the community's health and wellbeing. It is anticipated that less government funding will be available and it is likely the public health care sector will outsource more of its services to private operators. Through experience gained in operating St John of God Midland Public Hospital, the organisation hopes to build its capability to partner with governments on similar projects in the future.

As the future unfolds, there will be uncertainty and risk but this has always been the case. St John of God Health Care can only imagine what the future might hold and strive to be a vibrant part of it. In the spirit of the entrepreneurial faith filled heritage received from the Sisters of St John of God and as a strong, self-aware organisation, St John of God Health Care faces the future with hope and a commitment to respond to the gospel imperative to "go and do likewise".

#### ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE —

**LEADERS** 1989 – 2014

#### Trustee Chairs (in chronological order)

Sr Verna Haugh SJG	Fek
Sr Assumption Neary SJG	Aug
Sr Ann Bannon SJG	Dec
Sr Corona Gainford SJG	Sep
Sr Patricia Doyle SJG	Sep
Sr Isobel Moran SJG	Jan
Mr Don Good	Mar
Mr Clive Macknay	Feb
Ms Eva Skira	Ja

Feb 1989-Jul 1990 Aug 1990-Dec 1992 Dec 1992-Sep 1993 Sep 1993-Sep 1996 Sep 1996-Dec 1999 Jan 2000-Feb 2007 Mar 2007-Jan 2011 Feb 2011-Dec 2013 Jan 2014-current<sup>1</sup>

#### Trustees (in alphabetical order)

Prof Patrick Duignan Sr Petrus Enright SJG Sr Margaret Finlay *ibvm* Sr Martha Forde SJG Sr Corona Gainford SJG Mr Don Good Sr Verna Haugh SJG Sr Columba Howard SJG Sep 1990-May 1994 Oct 2004-Sep 2008 Sep 1999-Dec 1999 Feb 1989-Jul 1990 Sep 1993-Dec 1999 Jan 2001-Dec 2007 Jan 2000-Dec 2012 Sep 1996-Oct 2004 Oct 2009-Dec 2010 Sep 1993-Sep 1996 Sep 1993-Sep 1996 Jan 2000-current Feb 1989-Sep 1990 Feb 1989-Jul 1989 Sr Johanna Klep SJG Sr Helena Lavelle SJG Mrs Mary McComish Mr Clive Macknay Sr Denise Maloney SJG Sr Cecilia Masterson SJG

Mr Jack Moore Sr Isobel Moran SJG Mr Mark Murphy Sr Assumption Neary SJG

Sr Pauline O'Connor SJG

Sr Una O'Loughlin SJG Rev Dr Joseph Parkinson Prof Michael Quinlan Sr Sarto Salmon SJG Ms Eva Skira Br Joseph Smith OH Mrs Therese Temby Very Rev Dr Ian Waters Sr Glenys Yeoman SJG Sep 1999-Dec 1999 Jan 2004-Dec 2008 Jul 2013-current Apr 2009-current Sep 1990-Sep 1993 Sep 1989-Sep 1993 Sep 1996-Sep 1999 Jul 2013-current Sep 1996-Jun 2013 Jan 2014-current Feb 1989-Dec 1992 Jan 2000-Oct 2004 Sep 1990-Sep 1993 Sep 1996-Sep 1999 Jan 2009-Dec 2010 Jan 2000-Sep 2003 Oct 2009-current Oct 2004-Dec 2011 Sep 1993-Sep 1999 Feb 2012-current Jan 2008-Dec 2012 Oct 2004-current Oct 2004-Dec 2010 May 1994-Sep 1996

1 'Current' means the person was in this role in July 2014.

#### Board Chairs (in chronological order)

Sr Mary Kiely SJG
Justice Toni Kennedy
Prof Michael Quinlan (Interim Chair)
Mr Terry O'Connor
Prof Michael Quinlan
Mr Clive Macknay
Mr Tony Howarth

Jun 1990-Aug 1991 Sep 1991-Oct 1992 Nov 1992-Jan 1993 Feb 1993-May 1995 Jun 1995-Dec 1998 Jan 1999-Dec 2003 Jan 2004-current

#### Board members (in alphabetical order)

Fr Rodger Austin	Jul 1995-Dec 1997
Mr Mark Bahen	Jan 2008-current
Dr Tony Baker	Mar 2005-current
Sr Margaret Anne Beech SJA	Jul 1994-Jun 1995
Mrs Robin Beech	Dec 1995-Dec 1997
Ms Jay Bonnington	Oct 2006-current
Dr James Breheny	Jul 1995-Jan 1997
Assoc Prof Rosanna Capoling	ua Jan 2010-current
Sr Teresa Conneely SJG	Jul 1990-Jun 1991
Sr Ann Cullinane SJG	Oct 1991-Sep 1994
Sr Maria Cunningham RSC	Dec 1995-Dec 1999
Mr Ivor Davies	Mar 2000-Dec 2011
Mr Kersh de Courtenay	Dec 1992-Jan 1993
Mr Jack de Groot	Jan 2010-Jun 2013
Sr Anne Derwin RSJ	Aug 2004-Dec 2009
Ms Michele Dolin	Nov 1996-Dec 1998
Sr Emilian Doyle SJG	Jul 1990-Jun 1993
Prof Patrick Duignan	Jan 1999-Dec 1999
Sr Linda Ferrington RSC	Mar 2012-current
Dr Barry Fitzgerald	Jul 1990-Jun 1995
Mr Iain Gauld	Jul 1990-Nov 1996
Mr Dalton Gooding	Feb 1998-current
Sr Gemma Grant SJA	Jul 1990-Jun 1994
Mr Tony Hancy	Oct 1992-Nov 1996
Sr Verna Haugh SJG	Oct 1991-Sep 1993
Mr Tony Howarth	May 2001-current
Dr Rex Joyner	Dec 1997-Mar 2000

Justice Toni Kennedy Sr Mary Kiely SJG

Sr Helena Lavelle SJG Sr Ann McGlinn SJG Mr Clive Macknay

Dr Audrey Martins Mr Terry O'Connor Sr Pauline O'Connor SJG Sr Eileen O'Grady SJG

Nr Peter Patrikeos Mr Peter Prendiville Prof Michael Quinlan Sr Sarto Salmon SJG Ms Kerry Sanderson Sr Patrice Scally SJG Ms Eva Skira Br Joseph Smith OH Dr Michael Stanford Dr Richard Vaughan Dr David Watson Mr Keith Wilson

Sep 1991-Oct 1992 Jun 1990-Aug 1991 Mar 1996-Dec 1998 Jul 1990-Jan 1991 Apr 2001-Dec 2011 Jan 1990-Dec 1997 Jan 1999-Dec 2003 Nov 1993-Jun 1995 Feb 1993-Jun 1995 Apr 1994-Sep 1996 Jan 1999-Dec 2000 Nov 1996-Aug 1997 Dec 1997-Dec 2007 May 2012-current Jul 1990-Dec 1998 Jul 1995-Dec 1995 Mar 2012-current Jan 1991-Dec 1993 Mar 1999-Feb 2012 Jan 1996-Dec 2007 Jul 2003-current Jan 1994-Jun 1995 Apr 1999-Nov 2004 Apr 1993-Dec 2002 Nov 1996-Dec 1997

### Group Chief Executive Officers (in chronological order)

Mr Tim McDonald	Sep 1989-Jan 1994
Mr Don Good (joint Acting CEO)	Jan 1994-Aug 1994
Mr Roger Veary (joint Acting CEO)	Jan 1994-Aug 1994
Dr James Breheny	Aug 1994-Feb 1997
Sr Pauline O'Connor SJG (Interim CEO)	Feb 1997-Jul 1998
Mr Ivor Davies	Jul 1998-Feb 2002
Dr Michael Stanford	Feb 2002-current



### 

 $T \begin{tabular}{ll} \label{eq:tabular} he production of a book like this takes many months of collaboration involving a large number of people with differing skills. It would be impossible to mention everyone by name nonetheless this acknowledgement is to thank everyone who has been involved, whatever the size or nature of their contribution. \end{tabular}$ 

Specific mention goes firstly to the Editorial Committee comprising Jennifer Stratton, Sally-ann Parker, Peter Hayes, Tracey Roberts and the Editor Peta Robson, who were all superbly supported by Karen Key. The committee poured over hundreds of photographs and thousands of words with keen eyes, each person offering a different perspective and all learning something of value in the process.

Other groups and individuals to thank for their invaluable contribution and support in the production of this book include the following:

Input from the Reference Group comprising Sr Isobel Moran, Sr Assumption Neary, Don Good, Lee-Anne Bellis, Kate Birrell and John Warren helped refine the scope of this publication. The designers, Clarity, helped the committee envisage the look and feel of this book long before it was produced.

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Lastly, but by no means least, caregivers, patients, families of patients, doctors and volunteers all opened their hearts through their personal photographs and stories, a reminder to everyone of the reason St John of God Health Care exists.



The Editorial Committee has taken every care to ensure the accuracy of the information in this book and that the appropriate permissions to include the personal stories and photographs have been obtained. The leaders' lists were current at the time of going to print.



# IMAGINE

BY JULIE REYNOLDS

Community Support Worker, St John of God Accord

Imagine that you are a tree, standing upon this sacred Earth, A tree of ancient years, with a massive solid girth. A tree that has seen the seasons of the Earth come and go, That has survived fearsome bushfires and winter's unforgiving snow.

Imagine standing every day, on your sacred chosen place, And watching over life's affairs, with serenity and grace, Maintaining inner balance, peace and harmony And living to old age, a sacred ancient tree.

Now, imagine understanding fully that, "I" am responsible for my life And my thoughts create my journey, be it happiness or strife. That balance comes from within and is my responsibility, That I have amazing gifts to share and can change the way I see.

Imagine using this wisdom every minute of every day And changing the course of your life in a most amazing way. Before we can bring about balance and stand with peace upon the Earth, We must first turn within and completely understand our worth.

I tell you now my friend, that you are that ancient tree, Placed upon this Sacred Earth, for all the world to see. In balance can you live your life, in peace and love and light. You are a precious jewel, a treasured gift, a beacon in the night.

