



# Pomegranate

Hospitality | Compassion | Respect | Justice | Excellence



## Understanding the health care needs of FIFO families

St John of God Health Care has entered into an innovative partnership with leading social support and education provider to the resources industry, FIFO Families, to help identify the health care needs of this unique demographic.

SJGHC and FIFO Families will review and identify challenges in access to health care and support services for families in which one member regularly works away from home for long periods of time, as a fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) or drive-in, drive-out (DIDO) worker.

Research findings will be used to potentially shape and change how hospital and health care services are delivered, specific to meeting the needs of this community.

FIFO Families Founder and Director Nicole Ashby said: "It is a credit to SJGHC that it has recognised the unique circumstances families face when one parent is working away for long periods.

"This is the first time, to our knowledge, that a health care provider has sought to engage with the country's FIFO population in such a way."

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*Pictured: SJGHC has partnered with FIFO Families to better understand the health care needs of families in which one worker regularly works away from home.*

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## GROUP UPDATE

Within the 25 year existence of St John of God Health Care Inc, we have arguably never achieved so much as an organisation as we have this year. Particular highlights for me have been:

- Completion of various hospital redevelopments (Murdoch, Geelong, Burwood and Bunbury), all of which have lifted the bar in terms of contemporary standards for patients and families
- Acquiring and successfully integrating the 205 bed Mt Lawley hospital into our Group
- Largely completing the building work, and commencing the mass staff recruitment, for our Midland hospitals
- Agreeing and widely promulgating our five Strategic Priorities for 2015-2019
- Revising the Our Vision goals and expectations for 2015-2019
- Significantly growing our service range and volumes across all our areas of activity
- Increasing our staff numbers to now over 11,000 across the Group
- Completing the implementation of the Shared Services Review recommendations.

I would like to thank all our caregivers, accredited doctors, volunteers, consumer representatives, Board and Trustees for their outstanding contribution during the year. Thanks also to the Sisters of St John of God who keep all of us in their prayers, who affirm us in what we are doing and who participate in ceremonies and activities with great enthusiasm!

The year has brought many new faces across the organisation and, in the way of things, also seen retirements and resignations. My particular thanks for outstanding service to two outgoing Trustees (Don Good and Clive Macknay), three outgoing Board members (Dalton Gooding, Jay Bonnington and Kerry Sanderson), and to Kate Birrell who has worked tirelessly for us for 35 years (including 11 years as Group Director Nursing).

Best wishes to all for Christmas and I look forward to working with you in 2015.

**Dr Michael Stanford**  
Group Chief Executive Officer

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SJGHC Group Chief Executive Officer, Dr Michael Stanford said developing a deeper understanding of the population group would help in determining appropriate hospital and health care services.

“We are particularly mindful that in Western Australia, which has the highest proportion of FIFO and DIDO workers in the country, our hospitals deliver close to 5,000 babies every year, and a proportion of our patients are going to be new mothers whose partners work away,” Dr Stanford said.

“We have already identified that our regional hospitals in Bunbury and Geraldton as well as our major hospitals in Perth are of great service to these families.”

“As we also operate Raphael Houses that provide free community-based services for parents experiencing postnatal depression and other mental health issues, we have an understanding of the impact personal circumstances can have on maternal health.”

Dr Stanford acknowledged that when the new St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals open in 2015, a community of FIFO and DIDO workers in Perth’s eastern suburbs would also be accessing SJGHC for hospital care and support.

It is envisaged the expertise brought together in a partnership between SJGHC and FIFO Families, informed by research, will assist in developing parent education classes and other resources that are targeted to meet the unique requirements of FIFO and DIDO families.

FIFO Families is a company that provides support services and advocates for families in the resources industry and the community.



## Warrnambool celebrates 75 years

Over a weekend in October, St John of God Warrnambool Hospital hosted celebrations to mark its 75th anniversary of caregiving to the Western Victoria region.

An anniversary party on the Saturday evening was attended by 140 past and present caregivers at which a new history of the hospital *Seeds of Hope* by historian Helen Penrose was launched.

Awards were announced that included long-serving doctors who retired from practice in the last year: General Practitioners, Dr Gerald Irvine and Dr Mike Page and Palliative Care Physician Dr Eric Fairbank.

Mr Stephen Fischer, Chair of the hospital’s Medical Advisory Committee, was given a special award by St John of God Health Care Eastern Hospitals Executive Director, Tracey Burton, for 24 years of continuous and diligent service in the role, which she acknowledged had been of enormous benefit to the hospital community.

The hospital community was joined by 12 Sisters of St John of God from Western Australia and Victoria, many of whom had served at St John of God Warrnambool Hospital. Other special guests welcomed

were St John of God Health Care Chairman of Trustees Eva Skira and Trustee Mary McComish.

A Mass in Thanksgiving on Sunday morning was celebrated at St Joseph’s Catholic Church in Warrnambool by The Most Reverend Paul Bird, Bishop of Ballarat with over 200 parishioners and members of the community in attendance.

Earlier in the week, the hospital had marked the occasion with a ceremonial tree planting in the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens and a luncheon for all current caregivers.

St John of God Warrnambool Hospital Chief Executive Officer, Dr Glen Power, reflected that the events of the weekend and the strong attendance underscored the great sense of pride the Warrnambool community has in the hospital and its caregiving.

“We were delighted that so many former caregivers made the journey back to Warrnambool – some from interstate, and a good many from right across the state – to join in the celebrations,” Glen said.

“Historian Helen Penrose deserves special praise for documenting so beautifully the historical achievement of the Sisters and all who have served at the hospital in the past 75 years.”

Among the highlights was the Saturday evening event when it was discovered by Warrnambool Mayor Michael Neoh that Sister Denise Maloney was also present, as Sister Denise had delivered him as a baby in 1965.

Copies of *Seeds of Hope: St John of God Warrnambool Hospital 1938-2014* are available from the hospital phone (03) 5564 0605.

*Pictured above: Hospital caregivers and community members joined the Sisters of St John of God in a Mass in Thanksgiving at St Joseph’s Catholic Church. Below: In Warrnambool for the 75 year festivities were Chairman of Trustees, Eva Skira and Trustee Mary McComish, Eastern Hospital’s Executive Director Tracey Burton and CEO Glen Power.*



# Awards flow for workplace wellness and safety

St John of God Health Care has been lauded for its commitment to workplace wellness and safety recently taking out a Victorian WorkCover Award and winning two categories in the Worksafe WA Awards.

The Victorian award was for the new SJGHC Live Well, Work Well Program that motivates caregivers to care for themselves as they care for others.

Group Manager Occupational Safety and Health Stephen Dowling said the program introduced this year aimed to engage employees to discover positive lifestyle choices that help them to feel their best, and to provide new ideas and opportunities for keeping them healthy.

St John of God Murdoch and Subiaco Hospitals were respective winners of two of the categories in the Worksafe WA awards.

The Worksafe WA awards were presented by WA Minister for Commerce, Michael Mischin, to Workforce Directors Leanne Merchant from Murdoch and Shellee Chapman from Subiaco Hospital.

Murdoch Hospital won the category of *Best Workplace Safety and Health Management System* recognising a whole of hospital approach to OHS which has seen significant improvements in safety performance at Murdoch Hospital in recent years.

Murdoch Director of Workforce Leanne Merchant said: "In implementing our safety

strategy, we recognised the importance of communication and consultation at all levels, importantly with our managers and caregivers.

"Whilst we are very proud to win this award, we know it's a journey and we will continue to strive for the safest workplace through our philosophy of continuous improvement," Leanne said.

Subiaco Hospital took out the category of *Best Solution to an Identified Safety and Health Issue* for the development of the GlideSafe IV Pole Transfer system which gives caregivers the ability to slide the IV pole, with fluids and pumps attached, from one side of the patient bed to the other with just one hand.

Before GlideSafe was introduced nursing staff had to lift the heavy IV pole manually which presented a significant risk to the caregiver, as well as the patient, if the equipment was dropped.

In accepting the award Shellee acknowledged the involvement of many caregivers including the hospital's engineering department and the commitment of St John of God Health Care to OHS improvement and innovation.

Shellee said the award would further motivate the organisation to continue to develop OHS innovations in health care.

*Pictured: (l-r) WA Minister for Commerce Michael Mischin with Workforce Directors from Subiaco Hospital Shellee Chapman and Murdoch Hospital Leanne Merchant.*



## NEW ONLINE WELLNESS DIRECTORY

A new resource has been developed as part of the SJGHC Live Well, Work Well program to give caregivers access to the latest health and wellbeing information and tools via the internet.

The wellness directory will help caregivers and their families to manage their own health and wellbeing by encouraging them to make positive lifestyle choices.

With the information being made available via the internet, caregivers can access it from any computer, smartphone or tablet device, at any time of the day or night.

Within the directory, caregivers will find advice on the management of some common health conditions like high blood pressure and cholesterol. It also provides access to useful measurement tools, prevention and support programs such as body mass index (BMI), sun protection, family relationships and financial services.

Caregivers are encouraged to share the directory with friends and family who might also find it helpful in making positive lifestyle choices.

Visit [www.sjog.org.au/livewell](http://www.sjog.org.au/livewell) or scan the printed QR code to go direct to the new SJGHC Live Well Work Well online directory.



# Doing it for the kids at Midland

With its own 12 bed paediatric ward, a dedicated area for children within the emergency department and a playground designed by kids, the needs of young patients and visitors are being well-considered in the new St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals.

Midland Hospitals Director of Nursing, Jeffrey Williams, said a hospital can be a frightening place for small children, particularly if they are unwell or someone they love is a patient.

Looking at the hospital through the eyes of a child was factored into the construction, design and in considering how the hospital will function.

"If children come into the hospital via the emergency department they will be able to wait and be assessed in a separate area away from the general patient population," Jeffrey explained.

"The paediatric ward has single and shared rooms to cater for a range of surgical and medical procedures that will be on offer at the hospital.

"The ward has brightly coloured shelving for books and toys and a large indoor play area with a full height glass wall overlooking the main public hospital reception."

Managing contractor Brookfield Multiplex and other contractors involved in building

the hospitals have started on the construction of a playground in one of the internal courtyards, as a lasting donation to the new hospital.

Brookfield Multiplex Regional Managing Director, Chris Palandri said: "It is important that children are able to spend time with their families outside of the ward environment, so this playground will provide a much needed area for respite.

Local school children from Woodbridge Primary School helped choose the theme for the playground and had input into the final design. They selected a railway theme, which was appropriate as the hospital is being built on the site of the former Midland Railway Workshops.



*Pictured below: A railway themed playground is being constructed in an internal courtyard of the new St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals. Above: Local school children from Woodbridge Primary School helped choose the theme for the playground and had input into the final design.*



## MIDLAND HOSPITALS APPOINT NEW CEO

St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals has appointed Dr Glen Power as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Glen brings valuable experience in hospital management, public health policy and indigenous health to the leadership role as the hospitals edge closer to opening in 2015.

Most recently Glen headed up St John of God Wannambool Hospital, during which time he gained significant contracts for public elective surgery from the Victorian Government and created a stronger regional focus for the hospital with large increases in patient referrals from outlying areas. The hospital also topped the Press Ganey patient satisfaction survey for the past two years and attracted a number of new medical consultants to the region.

Glen has held senior policy and operational roles within the health industry across Australia, including Chief of Staff and Principal Policy Advisor to the Western Australian Minister for Health, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Joondalup Health Campus, General Manager of Sydney Southwest Private Hospital in New South Wales and Hobart Private Hospital in Tasmania.

Glen took a break from hospitals in 2011 and 2012 to take up the position of Chief Executive Officer of the South West Aboriginal Medical Services Corporation, the indigenous primary health provider for Western Australia's South-West region.

Glen is looking forward to joining the Midland team and sharing in the excitement that is mounting in Perth's eastern suburbs about the higher levels of clinical services that will be provided by the new hospital campus which will meet the population growth across the region.



## ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE DONATES \$20,000 TO HELP EBOLA CRISIS

In response to the escalating humanitarian crisis due to the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, St John of God Health Care has pledged \$20,000 to support the Brothers of St John of God who operate hospitals in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The World Health Organisation declared the Ebola outbreak an epidemic in March. Since then over 5,000 people have died and 9,000 cases have been reported, with more than half the deaths occurring in Liberia.

The Brothers of St John of God have been overwhelmed with demand for their services with many people simply attending the unprepared hospitals seeking medical assistance.

At St Joseph Catholic Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, sadly four Brothers, one Sister, and 13 caregivers died trying to save others. The hospital has now closed while it awaits staff and equipment to safely manage the disease.

Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford said that when a humanitarian crisis occurs, St John of God Health Care looks for ways it can support organisations working with people on-the-ground to ensure monies donated go to where they are most needed.

“In looking for ways to give our support to the international campaign to address the Ebola crisis in West Africa, we were all deeply saddened by the widespread devastation and human suffering.

“In learning of the tragic circumstances unfolding for the Brothers of St John of God and their community amidst this tragic story, we were compelled to do what we could to assist them directly,” Dr Stanford said.

“The prayers and thoughts of all in the St John of God Health Care community are with those who are suffering.”

*Pictured: SJGHC responds to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa with a donation to support the Brothers of St John of God operations in Liberia and Sierra Leone.*

## Frankston trials hydrotherapy for Parkinson’s disease

Early results from a collaborative research project being undertaken by St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital and Latrobe University indicate that hydrotherapy may help relieve the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease.

The preliminary findings suggest that being in water can reduce and sometimes eliminate freezing of the gait, which is the involuntary, inability to move often experienced temporarily by patients with the disease.

Latrobe University’s Prof Meg Morris said the study was measuring people walking over ground, with and without visual cues and attention strategies, and then measuring them doing the same exercises while they are in the water.

Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital Director of Allied Health, Claire Ferguson said: “This is the first time in Australia that the feasibility of running hydrotherapy sessions for

this population has been formally investigated and we are excited to have established a close working relationship with Prof Meg Morris, who is widely published and considered a world renowned expert on Parkinson’s disease.”

“Participation in enjoyable therapeutic interventions and exercises in an environment where the risk of falling is decreased, like in water, could certainly be of benefit to these patients,” Claire said.

Parkinson’s disease is a neurological disorder that impacts coordination and movement, and is often associated with impaired walking and balance.

Sufferers experience progressive decline in mobility because of the decreased speed and size of movements they are able to take. As they become increasingly immobile they become deconditioned which can have an impact on quality of life.

*Pictured: Therapeutic exercise in water may reduce freezing of the gait in Parkinson’s disease patients.*



## SJGHC joins national registry to monitor outcomes for bariatric surgery

As a leading private hospital operator in Australia, St John of God Health Care has agreed to participate in an Australia-wide bariatric surgery registry that will help define clinical outcomes in a rising surgical field.

The registry, established by the Obesity Surgery Society of Australia and New Zealand, will evaluate the outcomes of bariatric surgery, which is surgery to reduce weight in patients with severe obesity whose health is threatened by their condition.

Obesity is considered one of the most important public health issues currently facing Australia. A recent Australian Health Survey found 28.3 per cent of Australians are now obese, up from 19 per cent in 1995.

A study published in The Lancet in May 2014, found that the rates of obesity are growing faster in Australia than any other country in the world.

The registry started two years ago with a pilot study in four Australian hospitals, including St John of God Warrnambool Hospital.

St John of God Warrnambool Hospital Chief Executive Officer Dr Glen Power said the registry followed up with bariatric patients one month and then a year after surgery.

“The data helped the hospital and its participating general surgeon, Mr Philip Gan, quantify clinical outcomes for all bariatric procedures and maintain high quality standards,” Glen said.

Importantly the pilot study in which Warrnambool was involved showed the surgery had low complication rates and good outcomes in terms of sustained weight loss and reduction in type 2 diabetes prevalence.

A recent injection of Federal Government funding is enabling the registry to expand to potentially include all hospitals in Australia that do bariatric surgery, including seven of SJGHC’s acute hospitals.



Data will be collected on patient weight loss, change in diabetes status and problems related to the surgery, in the short and longer term.

Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford said by participating in the registry SJGHC was contributing to the broader understanding of bariatric surgery that would inform best practice.

“It is consistent with our Strategic Priorities of being a recognised leader in high quality health care and our objective of routinely monitoring and reporting our care outcomes.”

Dr Stanford said the study would deliver results within 12 months on the group’s clinical performance in the specialty and also provide efficacy and safety data to give scope for device, procedure and surgeon benchmarking.

“Importantly the registry is a partnership with our bariatric surgeons so that any learning can quickly diffuse into practice.”

Obesity contributes to the overall burden of disease as it’s a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and some musculoskeletal conditions and cancers.

Randomised controlled trials and case studies suggest that, for people with severe obesity, bariatric surgery provided more predictable and sustainable weight loss than conservative regimes like lifestyle interventions.

*Pictured: GCEO Dr Michael Stanford with Director, Centre for Obesity Research and Education Assoc Prof Wendy Brown and Research Assistant Brittany Smith.*

# New wing adds to growing health precinct

Health professionals, dignitaries and caregivers gathered for the official blessing of St John of God Murdoch Hospital's new wing to celebrate its addition to the growing Murdoch health precinct in Perth's southern suburbs.

On the evening, the new South Wing, with its striking green windows, provided a perfect backdrop to the blessing given by the Most Reverend Donald Sproxton DD and a Welcome to Country by Reverend Sealin Garlett.

In attendance were Murdoch Hospital Chief Executive Officer John Fogarty, Group Chief Executive Officer St John of God Health Care Dr Michael Stanford, Chair of Murdoch Medical Advisory Committee Dr Peter Bremner, doctors and caregivers who all spoke of the significant impact the new wing and theatre expansion will have on health services in the precinct.

"The addition of the South Wing in our twentieth year marks an important occasion in our hospital's history and brings to a conclusion stage one of our redevelopment project," John Fogarty said.

"We can now say our capacity is more than double what it was when we first opened our doors."

"As we reflect on 20 years of service to this community we look forward to a bright future as part of Western Australia's largest health precinct."

Brookfield Multiplex Regional Managing Director Chris Palandri said construction of the new South Wing and theatre expansion was completed two months ahead of schedule and follows their successful delivery earlier this year of the hospital's new Wexford Medical Centre.

"We are delighted to have a valued long-term partnership with St John of God Health Care, delivering new health facilities both here in Murdoch and the \$430 million St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals."

Patient feedback has already been very positive about the new wing, many enjoying its modern facilities, views and contemporary design.

*Pictured: Officially opening Murdoch Hospital's new South Wing were Most Reverend Donald Sproxton DD and SJGHC GCEO Dr Michael Stanford.*



## MURDOCH'S NEW SOUTH WING

- St Catherine, St Rose and St Francis wards are now open and the fourth floor, St Juliana, is set to open in the future. Each ward has 30 beds, with 120 beds in total, for orthopaedic and neurosurgery patients.
- The wards are fitted with the latest technology and provide patients with optimal comfort. The space is light and airy, with modern décor and urban views of the growing precinct.
- Each ward features bariatric and isolation rooms, with a variety of workflow improvements, spaces and features for patients, families and caregivers to support the distinctive care we provide.
- On the ground floor, the Cancer Centre has 20 chairs, a dedicated oncology pharmacy and provides private bays for chemotherapy patients, visitor lounges and a quiet room.
- The additional six theatres, installed with the latest theatre integration equipment, have provided capacity for an increased number of procedures. The pre-operative holding and post-operative recovery bays and the central sterile supply department have been expanded and refurbished.
- In January 2015, stage two of the Murdoch Hospital redevelopment commences with a refurbishment of the main hospital foyer, a new Chapel and refurbishment of the six original 1994 north wing wards.



## Cuddle cot offers comfort at Mt Lawley

For parents of stillborn babies, minutes and hours become a lifetime of memories with their child.

In a bid to provide greater support for these families, midwife Kristy Wiegele is on a fundraising mission to provide a 'Cold Cuddle Cot' for every hospital in Western Australia – starting with St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital.

Kristy, who works at the Mt Lawley Hospital, was deeply moved after the stillbirth of baby Lincoln, son of Shannon and James.

Uniting with Lincoln's parents, Kristy created her own Facebook page, *A midwife's gift*, in a bid to raise \$4,000 for the purchase of a Cold Cuddle Cot which she has donated to St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital.

The cot looks like a Moses basket and circulates cool air underneath the baby to allow babies to stay with their parents and family for longer periods of time.

Kristy is a strong advocate for providing as much support and care as possible to enable parents to grieve the loss of their child.

"For those whose babies are stillborn, having the Cold Cuddle Cot will mean

the baby can stay with their parents for longer, giving them the chance to cuddle, to bond, to grieve and to create memories in an environment where they can feel supported," she said.

"I have been so moved by people's kindness and generosity, and the fact that we raised over \$4000 in just ten days has inspired me to continue to try and raise money.

"Shannon and James are such inspirational people, who want to take their story out to the community. We are now working closely together to keep this fundraising effort going, with our aim now to raise enough money to donate a Cold Cuddle Cot to every hospital in Western Australia."

St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital Chief Executive Officer, Ms Chris Hanna, welcomed the donation to the Family Birthing Unit.

"This hospital has looked after mothers, babies and families for decades, and we are proud to have caregivers such as Kristy who champion these causes for future generations."

*Pictured: CEO Chris Hanna with midwife Kristy Wiegele and Shannon and James Cook and the Cold Cuddle Cot donated to St John of God Mt Lawley.*



## NEW INTERNSHIPS FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

In partnership with not-for-profit group CareerTracker, St John of God Health Care is now offering internship opportunities to talented indigenous university students with an interest in the health care industry.

The first seven recruits to the new program commenced their placements in the last week of November in Pathology, our Subiaco and Mt Lawley Hospitals and in the Workforce department.

The new Indigenous Internship Program is delivering on SJGHC's Reconciliation Action Plan, to provide work experience and leadership training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Workforce Director Rita Maguire hoped that the program would lead to full time employment opportunities at SJGHC for indigenous Australians after they have completed their education.

CareerTrackers works with universities across Australia to identify candidates and match them with organisations that align with their career interests, like SJGHC. They then continue to support the interns throughout their placement in the organisation.

SJGHC has committed to providing 12 weeks paid work for each year of the student's university course.

CareerTrackers help SJGHC to develop a program that is supportive of indigenous students and provide cultural awareness training for SJGHC caregivers.

*Pictured: First week on the job for Karwin Murray (left) who is working with Group Workforce Director Rita Maguire to complete her indigenous internship at SJGHC.*

# International recognition for patient simulation

The first international guide on patient simulation was launched in London in November and includes a chapter co-authored by SJGHC Clinical Project Manager, Tanya Edlington.

The textbook *Simulated Patient Methodology: Theory, Evidence and Practice* shares Tanya's specialist knowledge on the subject as an actor and educator.

Tanya applied her knowledge to develop St John of God Health Care's patient simulated program using trained actors to create 'real-life' scenarios in the mental health setting at Burwood and Richmond Hospitals and Pinelodge Clinic.

The program simulates situations faced by nursing and psychiatry students, like treating a patient in a drug-induced state, or a patient who presents with a broken arm who is revealed to be a victim of domestic violence.

Tanya explained that such scenarios are very real in a hospital environment but students may not be exposed to them as part of their training and so don't have the opportunity to practice the skills needed to handle the situation while also applying their clinical knowledge.

Tanya said participating in patient simulation gives students and clinicians opportunities to integrate the necessary skills including empathy and communication, in a complex environment, under the pressure of real-life distractions.

Almost 350 nursing and medical students have participated in more than 600 hours of mental health simulations since the program began in 2013. This experience has been used to develop a Mental Health Clinical Education Toolkit for use across the industry.

Tanya also presented at an SJGHC educators conference in November where she encouraged educators to consider the application of simulated patient methodology in other clinical environments.

*Pictured: Actress Carole Patullo is ready to play the role of Linda Shaw, a simulated patient who is being admitted during the manic phase of her bipolar disorder. She is with registered nurse Luke Bartlett.*



## HIGH QUALITY SERVICE AT ACCORD

St John of God Accord recently achieved the quality standard ISO9001 for its disability services in Victoria, and received praise and positive feedback from the auditor and the clients they support.

ISO9001 accreditation is not mandatory for the disability provider yet demonstrates Accord's commitment to having in place high quality management

systems for staff and clients.

The auditor of ISO9001 highlighted Accord's systems and procedures, was impressed by the feedback given by clients and the homely and well maintained environment of the Shared Supported Accommodation.

Accord has also been accredited by the Department of Human Services Standards and the Department of Social Services Standards, with overall feedback extremely positive.

Chief Executive Officer St John of God Accord Tony Hollamby said his staff are dedicated to improving the lives of people with a disability and the accreditation results reflected that commitment.

"I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard on the quality accreditation to achieve such an outstanding result."



## Education and more in Viqueque, Timor Leste

Four Geelong nurses recently took a seven hour, rough road trip to Viqueque, 180 kilometres from the Timor Leste capital of Dili, to deliver nurse training to local health workers.

Twenty local workers received training in basic life support, patient assessment, hand hygiene, asthma management, pain management, extremity trauma and the nursing process.

Geelong caregivers delivering the training were Paul Anstis, Donna Powell and Tracy Smith and headed up by Annie Chadwick.

"I am inspired by how much the health workers achieve in such difficult circumstances. I feel privileged to be of assistance to them in any way I can," Annie said.

While in Viqueque the Geelong team got involved in cleaning wards, supervising the digging of a hole to burn rubbish away from the hospital buildings, distributing medical items, repairing the SJGHC supplied steriliser, putting up curtains, and introducing simple ways to more efficiently manage resources.

The nurse development program has been in place since August 2010 and the latest trip to the developing nation was the eleventh by Geelong nurses.

An earlier trip in May this year was to train local midwives in postpartum hemorrhage, neonatal resuscitation and infection control in the maternity unit.

"We were welcomed by the whole community, thanks to a friendship with the City of Geelong, and particularly by the health care givers at the hospital and clinic. As a first time visitor, I was impressed to see how SJGHC is having a significant impact on nursing education and training," ICU nurse Paul said.

Donna Powell spent two weeks in Viqueque in May and July, cleaning and organising the maternity unit, and teaching maternity nursing.

Donna said: "My time in Viqueque was filled with challenges and contrasts. As a nurse I had to be very creative because of the lack of running water, no linen, unreliable power, and no nice storeroom, but the experience gave me new insight into nursing, and I gained more than I ever expected."

*Pictured: (Above) Tracy Smith and Paul Anstis teaching pain management in Timor Leste and (below) Midwives Donna Powell and Adelina Soares.*



## VALE MONSIGNOR JAMES MURRAY

It was on the passionate invitation of Monsignor James Murray 40 years ago, that the Sisters of St John of God arrived in Geelong to take over the Holy Cross Hospital and continue Catholic health services in the regional Victorian city.

Monsignor James Murray, affectionately known as Mons, passed away at his beloved St John of God Geelong Hospital on Sunday November 16, 2014.

Geelong Hospital Chief Executive Officer Stephen Robert acknowledged Mons' passing with sadness and celebration of a life lived to the full.

"Mons' passing was not unexpected as he had suffered poor health. Despite his ill health and the incredible discomfort it caused he was, to the end of his mortal life, the essence of a great gentleman and a kind friend to all he encountered," Stephen said.



"His faith was an inspiration and a beacon of hope for so many he touched throughout his life.

"Mons loved this hospital. He loved what our hospital stands for, he loved our caregivers and, as we all know, he loved our Sisters and their presence and example."

In 1974 the future of the hospital was bleak and Mons rallied forces on a mission to save the hospital. He inspired the Sisters to establish a team of supportive doctors and businessmen to guide the hospital back to good health.

"This foundation will always remain the bedrock of who we are.

"Mons great wish was to be cared for at our hospital and we are eternally grateful for the wonderful care and compassion offered to him by so many caregivers, particularly in recent times – thank you all."



## New beginnings in Christchurch

Spring is the season synonymous with new beginnings and it was the perfect time for St John of God Hauora Trust to reopen a repaired and expanded facility for youth and families and open another home within the community for people living with physical disabilities.

St John of God Waipuna specialises in youth and social services and had undergone extensive repairs and expansion after it was damaged in the Christchurch earthquakes of 2011.

Former St John of God Hauora Trust Chairperson, Mr Garry Donnithorne, officially re-opened the Waipuna building on September 25 and a blessing ceremony was conducted by the Bishop of Christchurch, Most Reverend Barry Jones DD.

Regional Manager Community, Youth and Child Services Sarah Williams said: "We now have a physical environment to support us to deliver our services to more children, families and young people locally, as well as across Canterbury and beyond."

On 12 November St John of God Hauora Trust also opened a second home in Rolleston, 20 km south of Christchurch, to meet the demand for community-based accommodation for people living with physical disabilities.

The purpose built home provides 24-hour, supervised care and can support up to six people with high-needs physical disabilities. It is located alongside a home already established by the service two years ago.

Regional Manager (Southern) Health and Ability Services, Virginia Spoons said the new home would give residents of both homes an opportunity to socialise together.

"Rolleston is an accessible community and the homes we have established exemplify our social model of care, where people with complex needs can live a full life as part of a supportive community."

*Pictured left: The first resident of the second St John of God Selwyn home, Katarina Sukhanov, and Mr Kelvin Coe, Mayor of Selwyn District, celebrate the construction of St John of God Hauora Trust's home for people living with a disability. Standing with them is Virginia Spoons, Regional Manager (Southern), Health and Ability Services.*

*Pictured right: A Punga tree being planted by former client Oscar Lui, former Chair of Hauora Trust Garry Donnithorne, Daniel Phillips who attends the Early Childhood Centre and current Chair Mr Bevan Killick to commemorate the reopening of St John of God Waipuna.*

## Home nursing wins business excellence award

St John of God Health Care's home nursing division, Health Choices, has been recognised for business excellence in its delivery of nursing and personal care in Warrnambool, Victoria.

The service, which has been operating for five years, won the 2014 Community/Government Enterprise Award at the Powercor Warrnambool Business Excellence Awards at the end of October.

Health Choices delivers a range of acute, post-acute, hospital in the home, community nursing and personal care solutions to clients and delivers over 120,000 home visits annually within Victoria and Western Australia.

Chief judge Bruce Hall, business mentor at the Small Business Mentoring Service, said Health Choices was a very committed team achieving great outcomes for the community.

"The team demonstrates accountability to a level many in the commercial sector would find challenging, and yet they maintain a high level of staff engagement," Bruce said.

Nurse Manager Health Choices Judy Stewart said the team delivered a quality, patient-focused service that always had the interest of the client at heart.

"The team works really hard and often go beyond what is expected," Judy said.

The award was the second in three years for the Warrnambool team who won the Warrnambool New Business under Five Years Award in 2012.

*Pictured: (l-r) Nurse Manager Judy Stewart, Registered Nurse Rebekah Bennie and Director Clinical Services Fiona Sanders.*



## BENDIGO CAREGIVERS SHINE

St John of God Bendigo Hospital caregivers have been in the spotlight recently for not one, but three reasons.

Exercise physiotherapist Katie Sutton took home the Bendigo Business Excellence Awards *Employee of the Year* award, and physiotherapist Sangeeta Sangwan was a state winner in the La Trobe University 3 Minute Thesis competition for PhD students and was published in two academic journals.

Katie was a popular choice for the award with glowing recommendations from patients, colleagues and health professionals.

Sangeeta is completing her doctorate at La Trobe University and her success is putting her in the spotlight for her research into rotator cuff, or shoulder, muscles. Injury and inflammation of the rotator cuff muscles is the most common cause of shoulder pain.

Sangeeta's academic papers have been published in the international journal *Disability and Rehabilitation* and *Physiotherapy Canada*.

*Pictured: Katie Sutton holds her Employee of the Year award high in jubilation.*





## FORMER VIC HEALTH MINISTER APPOINTED TO SJGHC BOARD

The Trustees of SJGHC appointed the Hon Robert Knowles AO MAICD to the SJGHC Board in November.

Rob Knowles will be known to many as a former member of the Victorian Parliament including Minister for Health and Aged Care from 1996 to 1999.

Rob is also a commercial director of Global Health Ltd, Drinkwise Australia Ltd, Silver Chain Group Ltd and IPG Ltd.

SJGHC Chair Eva Skira said Rob had outstanding credentials within the health care sector.

“Rob has made an outstanding contribution as a leader in health care in Australia and deep knowledge of the sector and strong commercial abilities will add to the bench strength of the SJGHC Board.”

Chair of the SJGHC Board Tony Howarth said SJGHC will benefit from Rob’s experience and expertise and he looked forward to welcoming him to the team.

Rob Knowles is also the current Chair of the Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne, Commissioner of the National Mental Health Commission and Chair of the Victorian Health Reform and Innovation Council. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 2007 for service to the community.

*Pictured: The Hon Robert Knowles AO.*

# New appointments



**Lisa Evans**  
Director of Nursing  
St John of God Berwick Hospital

Berwick Hospital has welcomed Lisa Evans to its executive team as Director of Nursing. Lisa was previously at Northern Health for four years as Director of Nursing and Bundoora Extended Care Centre

Lisa is passionate about person-centered care where patients are valued in a true partnership with the team. She has led teams to streamline falls and pressure management, protected meal times, nursing rounding and the development of interdisciplinary model of care.



**Cindy Foot**  
Director of Nursing  
St John of God Burwood Hospital

Cindy has been promoted to the role of Director of Nursing having been Deputy Director of Nursing at Burwood Hospital for 11 years

In her new role Cindy will create a strong clinical leadership as a dedicated DON role and provide a nursing leadership focus to assist in delivering on the Strategic Priorities.



**John Pease**  
Group Director, Governance

John Pease has joined SJGHC as the inaugural Group Director Governance and is a member of the General Management Committee.

In this new role John is accountable for group compliance, enterprise risk management and assurance (internal audit). These three functions are key components of a robust governance framework and are aligned with our values, in particular Respect, Justice and Excellence.

John has substantial experience leading teams of governance professionals in the areas of risk management, compliance, internal audit, legal services and company secretariat, across a number of highly regulated sectors including banking and finance, higher education and electricity networks.



**Katherine Wray**  
Director of Finance  
St John of God Midland Public and Midland Private Hospitals

Katherine recently returned to Perth from Alaska where she was employed by Providence Health and Services, a not for profit Catholic health system and the largest private employer in the state.

Katherine has significant health care financial and operational management experience.

# News in Brief

## ENVIRONMENT LESSONS SHARED IN NEW ZEALAND

Group Environmental Engineer, Dean Farnsworth, was selected as the ANZEX delegate to represent the Institute of Hospital Engineering Australia at the New Zealand Institute of Hospital Engineering National Conference in Auckland in November.

The nomination acknowledged Dean’s contribution to St John of God Health Care’s successful Energy Efficient Light replacement project, and he made a presentation on this topic at the conference and at an executive board meeting.

As part of the delegation to New Zealand, Dean toured Tauranga Hospital and Middlemore Hospitals and met with engineering managers to learn of further best practice environmental initiatives from his Kiwi counterparts.



## PORTRAIT DONATED TO BURWOOD

A beautiful portrait of the late Br Fabian Hynes OH, AM was donated to St John of God Burwood Hospital by the Hospitaller Order of St John of God and was unveiled by the Provincial Br Timothy Graham OH in October.

Br Fabian’s sister, Maureen Johns, attended the unveiling. The portrait will hang in the pharmacy as an acknowledgement of Br Fabian’s contribution as volunteer pharmacist from 2007 to 2013.



## CONTINUING EDUCATION IN PASTORAL CARE

St John of God Bendigo Hospital celebrated the completion of its first program conducted by the Victorian Centre for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) that included participants from within its own caregivers as well as healthcare workers from other sectors of the Bendigo community. Pictured here are enthusiastic graduates and their supporting educators (back row l-r) Denis Byrne, Director of Mission, Eleanor Roderick, Group Coordinator of Pastoral Services, Astrid Notarangelo, CPE Intern, Brendan McDonald, CPE Intern, Anne Weiczorek, Provisional Pastoral Supervisor of CPE and Darren Rogers, Bendigo Hospital Chief Executive Officer. In the front row are Bernadette Wurlod, Centre Director SJG CPE Centre Vic, Colleen Robinson, CPE Intern Bendigo Health, Shirley Walker, CPE Intern, Elizabeth Dunn, CPE Intern Bendigo Health.

In early 2015 the CPE program will be offered at St John of God Health Care’s Group Services’ office in South Melbourne for the first time and at St John of God Geelong Hospital.



## RICHMOND HOSPITAL HOSTS VETERANS DAY SERVICE

St John of God Richmond Hospital hosted its 18th annual Veterans Day commemoration service in its historic chapel in August. The theme ‘learning from the past...hope in our future’ was poignant for the veterans from different generations, current patients and caregivers.

Richmond Hospital Chief Executive Officer Strophon Billingham welcomed Chairman of Soldier On, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy AC, who highlighted the need for all to take a look within our own communities and raise awareness of those living with a psychological legacy from war and service.



# Mass commemorates 25 years of SJGHC

A beautiful evening Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on 18 September, 2014 celebrated 25 years since the Sisters of St John of God established St John of God Health Care as a multi hospital system with a single Board and Executive.

More than 350 people attended the Mass celebrated by Archbishop of Perth, Tim Costelloe, Bishop Don Sproston, Bishop Connors of Ballarat and Priests of many of the dioceses in which our hospitals are located.

The Archbishop gave thanks for the way the health care ministry has been able to bring the love of God to families and communities over the 25 years.

Special guests included the Sisters of St John of God, past and present leaders of St John of God Health Care, caregivers and leaders of the Catholic and healthcare communities as well as partners from the government and medical sectors.

The organisation's values of Hospitality, Compassion, Respect, Justice and Excellence featured in the service with caregivers carrying posters and laying flowers before the altar.

St John of God Health Care Board Chair, Tony Howarth, received an apostolic blessing from His Holiness Pope Francis on behalf of the organisation, and Chair of Trustees, Eva Skira, delivered a message from the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbott, who paid tribute to St John of God Health Care staff and volunteers.

"We have great reason to believe that the Sisters can be proud of their decision, and that the Mission – to deliver the healing mission of Jesus Christ – is being carried at least as strongly today as it ever was," Eva said.

Group Chief Executive Officer, Dr Michael Stanford, who has led the organisation for the last 12 years, addressed the congregation and remarked on the progress made in the delivery of health care over the 25 years.

Michael acknowledged that in 1989 the group cared for 54,000 people and in the last year treated over a quarter of a million people.

"The number of people we employ has gone from 2,500 to 10,850 today. And from eight hospitals in 1989 we now operate 18 facilities with 2,591 beds across Australia and New Zealand, as well as pathology, home nursing, disability services and social outreach programs.

"We have positively impacted many lives," Michael said.

"We thank the Sisters of St John of God for their trust in allowing us to be faithful stewards of the mission that they started in Australia in 1895. Their example is, and will always be, an inspiration to all of us.

"The provision of healthcare and social services is a great responsibility and a great privilege."



St John of God Health Care is a leading Catholic health care provider in Australia and New Zealand, operating 13 hospitals, home nursing, pathology and disability services, as well as Social Outreach and Advocacy services reaching out to people experiencing disadvantage. Editorial submissions or mailing list changes for Pomegranate to [tracey.roberts@sjog.org.au](mailto:tracey.roberts@sjog.org.au)

