

Winter | 2018

# Pomegranate

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## Bringing virtual reality into theatres

Virtual reality is now helping our surgeons undertake precision surgery like never before.

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**On the cover:** *St John of God Subiaco  
Hospital Vascular Surgeon Marek  
Garbowski shows patient Lynn Canning  
MEDVR in action.*

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St John of God Health Care is a  
leading Catholic healthcare provider  
in Australia and New Zealand, with a  
network that includes 23 facilities with  
more than 3,000 hospital beds as well  
as home nursing, disability services  
and social outreach services for people  
experiencing disadvantage.

# GROUP UPDATE

## Returning to St John of God Health Care.

After five years away from St John of God Health Care, I am delighted to return home to Perth and to an organisation I have great admiration for, having previously worked here for eight years.

Since leaving the position of Chief Executive Officer at St John of God Subiaco Hospital in 2013, I have spent time working in public healthcare and most recently led Queensland's largest Catholic hospital and health service organisation, Mater Misericordiae.

I believe that providing high quality clinical care and an exceptional patient experience should be at the core of everything we do.

In this, my first edition of Pomegranate, many of the articles touch on our changing times – farewelling long-serving St John of God Health Care Board Chair Tony Howarth AO, welcoming new Board Chair Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, and rolling out new technologies.

We are operating in an increasingly challenging environment, which means that we must ensure we are effective, efficient and innovative. We must be prepared to respond to what the future will bring.

Most importantly, we must continuously engage with and support our doctors and caregivers who look after patients every day, including those caregivers in our non-hospital services who serve clients such as those in our disability services facilities.



**Dr Shane Kelly**  
Group Chief  
Executive Officer

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As we look toward our next five-year planning cycle, our focus will be on addressing these needs so we can continue to provide outstanding care.

I am excited to be at the helm of this wonderful organisation. Our long history of providing excellent care, along with our Vision, Mission and Values, are strengths for us to build on.

Enormous thanks to our former Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford AM for his fantastic commitment and outstanding service to our organisation over the past 16 years.

I look forward to working with our Trustees, Board, executive teams, doctors and all of our caregivers at St John of God Health Care. 🍷

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# Chair hands over reigns

**After 17 years on the St John of God Health Care Board, 14 of which were served as Chair, Tony Howarth has retired from St John of God Health Care, leaving behind an organisation he describes as ready for the challenges ahead.**

Tony's leadership throughout his 14-year tenure saw the organisation grow from employing 5,700 caregivers with 10 hospitals and pathology and radiology services to employing more than 13,000 caregivers and running 23 facilities in Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and New Zealand in 2018.

While former Group CEO Dr Michael Stanford's operational leadership was supported by Tony's stewardship and oversight of St John of God Health Care, Tony said there was an element of good timing involved in this period of growth.

"Having the opportunity to grow and build an organisation, and actually taking a hold of that opportunity are two different things," he said.

"Michael Stanford and I managed the organisation through a really strong period for healthcare in Australia and looking back on it, there was strong alignment between providers, government and community expectations, and most importantly we had a strong economic environment to work in.

"This provided the opportunities for growth and thankfully the organisation

was in a really good shape to take advantage of that opportunity."

With a background in banking and finance, Tony was initially drawn to the St John of God Health Care Board through his dealings with the organisation in his professional career as well as his work with the Perth Archdiocese of the Catholic Church.

"I was keen to see how I could be of benefit to the Church and was impressed with the work being done with the people who I knew at St John of God Health Care, including former Group CEO Ivor Davies," he said.

"I feel really privileged to have had the opportunity to be involved with St John of God Health Care 17 years ago and then to have been given ongoing support to govern as Board Chair."

St John of God Health Care Chair of Trustees Eva Skira said Tony had led the Board with vision and wisdom through many transformative milestones.

"Under Tony's leadership the organisation has gone from strength to strength and the Trustees have been delighted with its significant growth and continued success," she said.

"Tony has placed Mission at the heart of all decision-making and continually emphasised the need for greater collaboration within the Catholic health sector for the sake of the communities we serve and to position the sector to flourish in the future."

Tony said that as Board Chairman he was determined to see the organisation improve, grow services in particular social outreach services and then make the transition to new leadership as smooth as possible.

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***"Under Tony's leadership the organisation has gone from strength to strength and the Trustees have been delighted with its significant growth and continued success."***

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**Pictured:** Former St John of God Health Care Board Chair Tony Howarth and Chair of Trustees Eva Skira.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

During his time as Chairman, Tony has overseen a period of significant growth for the organisation which has included:

- Adding Frankston, Pinelodge, Bendigo, Burwood, Richmond, New Zealand, Accord, Mt Lawley and Hawkesbury
- Greenfield developments of St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals and St John of God Berwick Hospital
- Redeveloping the majority of existing hospital facilities
- Establishing St John of God Health Choices and expanding our commitment to social outreach initiatives with \$66 million provided last financial year.

“For me our work in social outreach is one of the things I am most proud of, particularly in how we have been able to embed these services into the organisation. They are really important, not just another service we provide,” Tony said.

Throughout his tenure, Tony oversaw an increased investment in social outreach initiatives from less than \$10 million in 2003 to a high of \$66 million in 2014/15 and again in 2016/17.

“As we continued to grow we were able to increase our support for social outreach initiatives including Aboriginal health, mental health

services for women, babies and families, and support for at risk young people, in the communities we serve,” Tony said.

“These initiatives are critical to our Mission and have allowed us to go beyond the walls of our facilities and traditional services to broaden our investments in the community.”

One of Tony’s final tasks was being involved in the appointment of the new St John of God Health Care Group CEO Dr Shane Kelly. Tony has now handed over the reins of Board Chair to Hon Kerry Sanderson AC.

“I think it is good governance to hand over to a new Chairman after 14 years at the helm,” he said.

“We had identified Kerry Sanderson as the right person to be the new Chair but we needed to wait for her to finish her role as Governor of WA. Her knowledge of the organisation, having already sat on the Board, goes a long way to ensuring a smooth handover and effective transition.” 🍷

# Hon Kerry Sanderson AC appointed St John of God Health Care Board Chair



*Pictured: St John of God Health Board Chair Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Shane Kelly and Chair of Trustees Eva Skira*

## Former Governor of Western Australia Hon Kerry Sanderson AC has started her appointment as St John of God Health Care Board Chair.

She takes over from Mr Tony Howarth AO who served as Board Chair from January 2004 to May 2018.

Kerry's appointment sees her return to the organisation, having previously served on the Board from 2012 to 2014 before taking up the role of Governor of WA.

"I see the healing that St John of God Health Care does as terribly important," she said.

"What attracted me most to St John of God Health Care were the values. I very much support being a part of a values-based organisation and St John of God Health Care has wonderful attributes when you consider the healing Mission together with values of Hospitality, Compassion, Respect, Justice and Excellence."

Kerry, who was the first female Governor of WA, brings considerable recognition and experience to the Board.

In 2016, she was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia for eminent service to the people of Western Australia through the promotion of international investment, scientific research and export opportunities and through roles with maritime, mining,

emergency management and not-for-profit organisations.

This experience includes 17 years as Fremantle Ports Chief Executive Officer during which time the organisation was restructured and made profitable after several years of financial losses.

She was also the former Agent-General in London, a role in which she not only promoted WA goods and services, but also joined in Western Australia's successful bid site of the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope, to survey the skies like never before.

St John of God Health Care Chair of Trustees Eva Skira said Kerry's leadership, governance and experience would be highly valued by the organisation now and into the future.

"Kerry has excellent credentials to lead our organisation as we continue in our Mission to offer hospitality, hope and healing through the care we provide," she said.

"She has an impeccable record of service to the community at the most senior levels in Western Australia including extensive board experience and we look forward to her leading St John of God Health Care for many years to come."

Kerry said she was excited about the future of the organisation but acknowledged that the current healthcare environment would present challenges.

"St John of God Health Care has a long and established history of providing health care in Australia, dating back to the work done by the Sisters of St John of God and then built on by the Board and Trustees," she said.

"We are currently in a disruptive and competitive environment and we need to show the benefits of private hospital care, including focusing on the patient and investing in technology to improve outcomes for patients.

"Our new Group Chief Executive Officer Shane Kelly is committed to this and is experienced in implementing technology in healthcare in his previous roles.

"In 2019 the Trustees will be reviewing our Vision and we need to focus on our strategy to guide St John of God Health Care through the next five years, and at the core of this planning and review process will be a focus on the patient."

Kerry is St John of God Health Care's eighth Board Chair. 🌟

# Doctor Connect app delivers strategic innovation

**St John of God Health Care has introduced the new Doctor Connect app to provide specialists with a convenient way to securely view patient information and results, from anywhere at any time.**

The development of the new Doctor Connect app, available at many of our medical and surgical hospitals, is an innovative response by St John of God Health Care to assist specialists in their timely clinical decision-making, by providing access to real-time patient information.

St John of God Subiaco Hospital Chief Executive Officer Professor Shirley Bowen said the app had been welcomed by specialists and supported the commitment to delivering exceptional patient care.

“We have received a lot of positive feedback from our doctors who now have more timely access to patient information from the convenience of their mobile phone. This in turn enhances the service our doctors can provide to patients, which contributes to an overall improved patient experience,” she said.

Doctor Connect enables specialists to access patient data such as admission details, allergy and alerts, contact details and their nominated general practitioner information. In addition to personal patient data, it also provides access to patients’ radiology and pathology results.

Orthopaedic Surgeon Mr David Colvin said the app helped to breakdown communication barriers with his patients.

“The app gives me 24/7 access to patient lists and patient information including their contact details which has been surprisingly beneficial,” he said.

“Whereas previously I had to wait until I was physically at the hospital to speak with my patients about their surgery, I am now able to call them wherever I am, be it home, at the clinic or in transit, to give them feedback immediately about their surgery and help put their mind at ease.”

St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Shane Kelly said the decision to create this app was fuelled by a desire to provide better connections between doctors, patients and the hospital.

“We know that our specialists want access to their patient information at the touch of a button, wherever they are – be that in theatre, in the hospital wards or in their specialist rooms,” he said.

“This app goes a long way to achieving that goal and breaking down communications and connection barriers that may exist.

“I am excited to see this technology develop and expand to benefit more of our doctors and patients.”

Shane said the technology also enhanced patient experience in our hospitals.

“The impact of this sophisticated technology allows the specialist to provide the highest quality person-centred care to their patients,” he said.

“Doctor Connect is another example of how we are embracing our digital future as we build a culture of innovation and experimentation throughout our hospitals.”

**Pictured:** Doctor Connect enables specialists access to patient information like never before.



# World-first virtual reality technology enhancing patient care

**St John of God Health Care surgeons are the first in the world to have access to innovative virtual reality technology, MedVR, allowing precision planning of complex surgeries.**

St John of God Subiaco Hospital is the exclusive pilot site for MedVR, developed by Perth-based innovators Progressive Medical, with the hospital's surgeons already testing and assessing its potential to enhance patient care.

St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Shane Kelly said the technology has the ability to improve patient care.

"It is exciting to see how virtual reality can be used to simulate complex surgeries, which allows our surgeons to plan their operations and collaborate with other specialists to give patients the best outcomes possible," he said.

"This innovation is one example of how we are using technology to provide person-centred and compassionate care today and into the future."

MedVR uses a patient's CT, PET and MRI scans to create 3D virtual reality models allowing surgeons to completely immerse themselves in a digital simulation of the patient's body through a virtual reality headset.

St John of God Subiaco Hospital Vascular Surgeon Mr Marek Garbowski said he was excited about the potential of the technology.

"MedVR enables surgeons to have a closer look at the area they are about to operate on, giving us more opportunity to see what needs to be done and assess any potential risks and challenges," he said.

"Once we get into theatre, this technology gives surgeons a clear understanding of what is going on inside a patient's body so we can be more prepared and potentially even reduce surgery time, leading to better patient outcomes."

Marek's patient Lynn Canning said she saw the benefits of the technology in reassuring patients who are having upcoming surgery.

"Having your surgery explained to you so you can actually see what they will be doing is really beneficial," she said.

"It is a communication tool. For a lot of patients the fear comes from not understanding what is going to happen, so if you can see it you will feel more comfortable."

Progressive Medical Managing Director Arthur Ong said this world-first technology also enables collaboration between specialists to help breakdown geographical barriers to health care.

"By enabling surgeons to engage and consult with other medical professionals, MedVR can bring world-class care to patients no matter where they live, bringing equitable care services to all," he said.

"There is also potential to use this technology to teach and train clinicians and medical students so they can learn about complex surgeries and conditions in an immersive virtual reality environment." 🌐

**Pictured:** St John of God Subiaco Hospital Vascular Surgeon Mr Marek Garbowski, St John of God Subiaco Hospital Chief Executive Officer Professor Shirley Bowen and St John of God Health Care Chief Medical Information Officer Dr Alexius Julian.





*“It is exciting to see how virtual reality can be used to simulate complex surgeries which allows our surgeons to plan their operations and collaborate with other specialists to give patients the best outcomes possible.”*

# Clinical Command Centre technology powering theatres

**In April, the Clinical Command Centre at St John of God Subiaco Hospital officially opened, as the second St John of God Health Care hospital to start using the technology.**

The Clinical Command Centre at Subiaco was created using technology adapted from similar Clinical Command Centre technology developed at St John of God Murdoch Hospital which was implemented in 2017.

The Clinical Command Centre provides an overview of a patient's progress through theatres on large digital screens in the command centre and on screens in each theatre.

St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Shane Kelly said the expansion of the technology, which was designed and developed in-house, to a second hospital showed the benefits of investing in technology.

"Expanding this technology to a second hospital meant we were able to test the design in a different environment with varying processes and systems," he said.

"At both sites we have found the Clinical Command Centre has enhanced patient flow and communication throughout our theatres and in other areas of the hospital.

"Where we found limitations, we have been able to refine the solution and we will be able to ensure these enhancements flow back through to Murdoch as well."

Shane said this was just one example of how St John of God Health Care was embracing new digital opportunities to enhance our patient care.

"This is just one example of how we can use technology to improve our processes and our communication throughout the hospital which has direct flow on benefits to patients who can experience less waiting times and surgeons who know exactly where their patient is in our hospital," he said. 🍷

**Pictured:** St John of God Subiaco Hospital Chief Executive Officer Professor Shirley Bowen, Director of Nursing Jane Tuckey and Perioperative Flow Manager Aruna Thathiah.



# Hearing from our patients like never before

**Text messages sent directly to patients after their stay is giving our hospitals insights into the patient experience like never before.**

The simple text message, which asks patients to rate their experience using the feedback mechanism net promoter score (NPS), is now being sent to all medical and surgical patients and includes the Australian Hospital Patient Experience Question Set (AHPEQS).

St John of God Bendigo Hospital Deputy Director of Nursing Scott Dole said the tool was giving caregivers insights into what patients value.

“Patients are able to easily provide feedback, and we have found that more than 80 per cent of this feedback is positive,” he said.

“From the patient’s perspective, the feedback shows they don’t notice that their medication arrived on time or that their surgery went well – these are just things they expect.

“What they are highlighting is that it is the personal interactions, the one-on-one care and time that our caregivers spend supporting them matters most.”



*Pictured: St John of God Bendigo Hospital Deputy Director of Nursing Scott Dole and Nurse Amelia Dindial.*

Scott said the NPS and AHPEQS feedback was helping to reinforce the fundamentals of nursing - that every encounter matters – and to help us improve patient care.

“Managers are able to provide the feedback direct to our frontline teams quickly and efficiently and we are finding that patients are often using the tool to call out exceptional caregivers.

“This is really important as it gives our managers a way to celebrate the day-to-day roles our caregivers play in enhancing our patients’ experiences.”

St John of God Health Care Group Manager Marketing and Corporate Affairs Sally-ann Parker said, as a Mission-based organisation, the insights gathered through this immediate feedback reinforces the importance of ensuring our care is always patient-focused.

“One of the great things about our NPS feedback is that it gives patients the opportunity to not only rate their

stay but to comment about their care, which provides the context and highlights of their stay,” she said.

“One piece of feedback that has stuck with me from our Bendigo hospital was from an 80-year-old patient who was seeking care for chronic pain. She highlighted that she felt comfortable and cared for as a human not just a number.

“These are the real insights that I think are beneficial for all our caregivers to hear so they know the difference they have made to the lives of others.”

Scott agreed that feedback highlighting the emotional experiences involved with a hospital stay was the most powerful for caregivers working on the hospital’s wards.

“We always pay attention to and action the negative feedback as soon as possible, but we also share these positive stories so we can keep an eye on what we do well to ensure we don’t lose sight of the little things that matter most to our patients.” 🍷

# Renovations and refurbishment for rehabilitation hospital

## Enhancing the experience for patients recovering at St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital was key to the facility's recent \$9.7 million refurbishment.

The hospital recently celebrated the completion of its renovations, including new and upgraded patient rooms, new public spaces and consulting rooms, and upgraded rehabilitation areas.

St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital Director of Clinical Services Sally Faulkner said the most critical component of the refurbishment was the increased number of single rooms.

"We have converted our three and four-bed rooms to two-bed rooms and refurbished all our bathrooms, on top of creating four brand new patient rooms," she said.

"This provides our patients with greater comfort and privacy, particularly for those who are staying with us for an extended period of time.

"Furthermore, we looked at how our patients access the hospital and installed new front and rear entrances to make it easier for patients as well as vehicles that transport patients after surgery or injury."

The upgrades to St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital contribute to St John of God Health Care's commitment to enhancing the health services offered in the south-east Melbourne region.

In this region, as well as the specialist rehabilitation hospital, St John of God Health Care also offers dedicated mental health care through St John of God Pinelodge Clinic and acute hospital services through the new St John of God Berwick Hospital.

St John of God Health Care Eastern Hospitals Executive Director Bryan Pyne said these services would continue to grow when the former Berwick hospital site was transformed into a combined rehabilitation and mental health service.

"This is a time of significant growth in our region and going forward we will be able to offer a broad range of targeted rehabilitation and mental health services, which will not only improve healthcare in the region but also present opportunities to expand our capacity," he said.

"Our vision is to be unquestionably the market leader in these clinical streams in our community and broader regional Victoria."

Sally said the refurbishment was welcomed by patients, families and caregivers alike.

"We conducted the refurbishment in stages, to minimise the impact on our inpatient and outpatient services," she said.

"There was a buzz of excitement as each stage finished and we are so pleased with the result.

"Our caregivers' and contractors' efforts to 'keep calm and carry on' during the refurbishment works whilst supporting our patients and families during this time has been wonderful." 🍷

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***"This provides our patients with greater comfort and privacy, particularly for those who are staying with us for an extended period of time."***

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**Pictured:** St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital Director of Clinical Services Sally Faulkner with Eastern Hospitals Executive Director Bryan Pyne.



**Pictured:** Blessing of St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital.



**Pictured:** Refurbished areas at St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital.



## REFURBISHMENT AT ST JOHN OF GOD FRANKSTON REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

- Refurbishment of 46 rooms and ensuites, including building four new patient rooms.
- New spaces on ground floor include: extended foyer with airlock entry, new Chapel, three new consulting rooms, multipurpose room and café.
- Improved spaces on first level including occupational therapy kitchen, gym, outpatient waiting room and upgraded pharmacy.
- Relocation of the ambulance entrance to a new undercover area at the rear of hospital improving traffic flow and ease of patient entry.
- Many behind-the-scenes mechanical and services were upgraded including a new 17-tonne generator, upgraded air-conditioning and plumbing.

# Expanding community care in New Zealand

The opening of a community home in northern Wellington, New Zealand marked the expansion of St John of God Hauora Trust's care for people with neurological and physical disabilities.

The 12-room St John of God Clouston Park Community Home opened last month offering more opportunity for people with disabilities to access the support they need to live independently.

St John of God Hauora Trust Regional Manager (Northern) Stewart Clark said the new home would go a long way to meeting the needs of the community.

"Our vision is that this home will allow residents maximum independence and opportunity to participate in life activities that many so often take for granted," he said.

"We aim to provide high quality client care and support assisting people to meet the goals they wish to achieve.

Resident David said he was excited to be one of the first to move into the home.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity of being more independent - doing my own cooking and laundry, getting into town by myself," he said.

More than 50 guests attended the opening of the house and witnessed St John of God Hauora Trust Board Chair Bevan Killick cut the ribbon to officially commemorate the opening while Monsignor Gerard Burns blessed the home.

Bevan said the new home demonstrated the organisation's Mission to continue the healing mission of Jesus Christ.

"It is wonderful to see the influence that our patron Saint - St John of God - continues to have from half way around the world, some 500 years after he began his ministry," he said.

Clouston Park is one of several facilities run by St John of God Hauora Trust in New Zealand providing care, support and accommodation for people with disabilities, and young people at risk and their families. 🍷

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***"Our vision is that this home will allow residents maximum independence and opportunity to participate in life activities that many so often take for granted."***

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**Pictured:** Resident David Pearman with St John of God Hauora Trust Regional Manager (Northern) Stewart Clark, Monsignor Gerard Burns and St John of God Hauora Trust Board Chair Bevan Killick.



**Pictured:** St John of God Hauora Trust Pastoral Care Coordinator Rey Enriquez, assists Monsignor Gerard Burns [right] in the blessing of the home.



**Pictured:** St John of God Clouston Park opening ceremony.





# Drug and alcohol nurse wins excellence award

**Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Network (DAWN) Nurse Simon Hulatt recently won the WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Award in recognition of his work caring for clients as they withdraw from alcohol and other drugs.**

Simon won the Consumer Appreciation category after being nominated by a client he works with through the service which is run by St John of God Subiaco Hospital.

“It is such an honour to win this award for doing a job I absolutely love,” he said.

“To know that one of my clients nominated me for this award and then have that nomination validated by my peers who have chosen me the winner in this category is humbling.

“As a nurse, I want to be able to make a difference not only in helping my clients through their withdrawal but also to help them address the issues

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***“It is such an honour to win this award for doing a job I absolutely love.”***

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which have led to addiction so they can make meaningful and lasting changes in their life.”

DAWN is a free withdrawal service run by clinical nurse specialists who visit clients in their home and provide support as they stop or reduce their drug and/or alcohol use.

St John of God Subiaco Hospital Chief Executive Officer Professor Shirley Bowen congratulated Simon on the award, and said it highlighted the important role DAWN plays in the wider community.

“Congratulations to Simon on winning this award. The fact he was nominated by one of his clients highlights his dedication and commitment to going above and beyond, in order to support his clients through such a difficult time in their life as they go through alcohol and drug withdrawal,” she said.

“Earning this award shows that Simon is not only highly regarded by those he cares for but also by the wider nursing community.

“It is also really pleasing to see that DAWN, which is a free withdrawal service, is recognised as providing an important service to the community.”

Simon said he felt privileged to work with DAWN and his clients who welcome him into their lives.

“Helping people through addiction is not just about caring for their physical needs which are often the most obvious concerns, but also their emotional needs,” he said.

“When you start to withdraw from addiction, the issues and challenges that led to that dependency emerge and need to be addressed alongside the physical needs so that clients can build a meaningful life once more.” 🍷

**Pictured:** Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Network (DAWN) Nurse Simon Hulatt and DAWN Manager Ann Annetts.

# Our oldest hospital celebrates 120 years

**St John of God Subiaco Hospital, founded by the Sisters of St John of God in 1898, has celebrated its 120th anniversary.**

This special milestone was recently marked with a number of activities recognising the hospital's heritage, commitment to its community and significant contribution to medical and surgical advances.

St John of God Subiaco Hospital Chief Executive Officer Professor Shirley Bowen said the 120th anniversary was about celebrating the enduring contribution the hospital has made in caring for generations of Western Australians and recognising the many caregivers who have carried on the Sisters' legacy.

"St John of God Subiaco Hospital is an iconic landmark in Perth," she said.

"Most people in Perth know someone who was born here, someone who has been cared for here or someone who has worked here.

"The hospital has positively impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people over the last 120 years. In 2017 alone, we admitted more than 80,000 patients, supported more than 800 doctors and employed more than 2,500 caregivers across all areas of the hospital.

"Commemorating our 120th anniversary is a time to reflect on our history and heritage, on the many people who have a connection with the hospital, and on our contribution to medical research. It is also a time to feel inspired about our future.

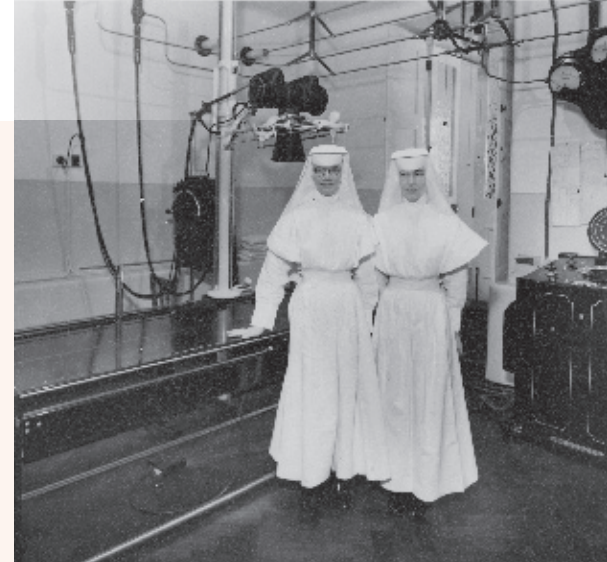
"The past leaders of our hospital, in particular the Sisters of St John of God, all drew on innovation to improve patient experience and create clinical excellence which remain our highest priorities today.

"It is a pivotal and exciting time for St John of God Subiaco Hospital." 🍷

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***"Most people in Perth know someone who was born here, someone who has been cared for here or someone who has worked here."***

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## St John of God Subiaco Hospital's TIMELINE

### 1898

The original hospital comprised four buildings: a single storey cottage hospital with three large wards; a small theatre and doctor's room (to compound medicines); a two-storey convent; and a combined chapel and school.

### 1899

13 Sisters of St John of God were living in the convent. The school had more than 115 students.

### 1902

A new two-storey brick convent was completed. The original convent was converted to hospital accommodation, increasing bed numbers to 40.

### 1911

A school of nursing was established for the Sisters of St John of God, who undertook training for qualifications of membership of the Australian Trained Nurses Association.



### 1910s and 1920s

The double storey wards one and two were completed in 1912 and the Cambridge Street wing in 1922.

### 1930s

The iconic Central Block with its colonnaded entrance and grand marble staircase was completed. The hospital accommodated 365 patients, including maternity.

### 1949

A midwifery training school was established. The nursing and midwifery schools opened to lay students in the early 1960s and remained active until 1984 and 1992 respectively.

### 1961

Maternity services were expanded with the opening of a dedicated 100-bed maternity hospital on the corner of Cambridge and McCourt streets, making the hospital Perth's leading private maternity hospital.

### 1960s

Services expanded with a new radiological centre, a psychiatric ward, nuclear medicine and a theatre recovery room. A dedicated pathology building and home for student nurses were also completed. In 1965, there were 210 Sisters of St John of God, 300 nursing, laboratory and domestic staff and 65 general nursing trainees working at the hospital.

### 1970s

The hospital established surgical and medical teaching units, and opened coronary care and intensive care units. A medical centre was opened in the former nurses' quarters.

### 1980

Completion of North Wing in 1980 provided new wards and operating theatres, kitchen and laundry. Intensive care and coronary care units opened, along with specialist colonoscopy and laser clinics, a cardiology clinic and dedicated oncology ward. A drop-in mother and baby centre added to the hospital's growing services.

### 1990s

The South Wing was completed to provide new general and maternity wards, a neonatal unit, and an intensive care and day surgery unit. Services continued to expand with the opening of a respiratory and sleep centre and SKG installed the first MRI machine at the hospital. An afterhours GP service, sports medicine clinic, a hydrotherapy pool, a chest pain clinic and a new paediatric unit were also established.

### 1998

The Subiaco Clinic opened to coincide with the hospital's 100th anniversary. The Clinic comprises 121 medical suites, a fully integrated day surgery unit and conference centre.

### 2000s

Outreach services expanded with the introduction of the Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Network (DAWN) and a Raphael Centre to help families affected by pre and post-natal depression. In-hospital services continued to expand with a new cancer centre, continence centre, day surgery unit and short stay ward.

### 2005

A major redevelopment provided five new operating theatres, refurbished maternity wards, a new front entrance and foyer, and a new short stay unit.

### 2007

The Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre, the first of its kind in a private hospital, opened.

### 2015

St John of God Wembley Day Surgery opened.

### Today and the future

Research remains a major focus with 262 studies currently underway at St John of God Subiaco Hospital. Oncology, pain and anaesthesia, intensive care, thoracic care and irritable bowel disease are key areas in which our research is contributing to the global knowledge base. 🌍

# Accord artists add fine art to Berwick

Artworks donning the walls of St John of God Berwick Hospital are bringing to life the connection between the new community hospital and disability support in south east Melbourne.

The artists, St John of God Accord clients who have intellectual disabilities, had their artworks displayed as a part of the hospital's Community Art Project.

St John of God Accord Greensborough Community Campus Manager Kristel Bonetti said the initiative demonstrated how the two divisions could work together to benefit all.

"For the artists it was really rewarding as they were able to see the joy their works can bring to the wider community and caregivers," she said.

"Furthermore, many of our clients do not have positive associations with hospitals so having the chance to see their works displayed and visit the hospital goes some way to resetting their experience."

St John of God Berwick Hospital Director of Mission Rhonda O'Connor said it was just as important for the hospital caregivers who were able to meet the artists - Sam, Gaye, Michael and Pam - and understand the stories behind the works.



*Pictured: Accord client Sam Beke with his artwork*

"It's been an absolute pleasure to work with our colleagues from Accord to showcase the work that they have been doing with their clients," she said.

"We created our Community Art Project for this very reason.

"We are proud of the connections we have with local artists, schools and art groups and are thrilled we have been able to extend this same hospitality to artists within our own organisation."

St John of God Accord Chief Executive Officer Tony Hollamby said this exhibition was a great demonstration of the power of art.

"We see the role of art and music as a bridge into the community for our clients," he said.

The Greensborough Community Campus was the first St John of God Accord service to offer support through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in 2016 and offers support coordination, therapy, wellbeing and life skills, education and recreation and respite to people living with intellectual disability.

Kristel said all programs offered to clients were designed to help meet their needs and develop their life skills to live as independently as possible.

She said the art program was particularly popular with their clients who created works ranging from paintings and drawings to ceramics.

"This is for a variety of reasons, for some clients it is for therapeutic benefits and the calming nature of creating art but for others it is the enjoyment they get out of expressing their own self, and being creative," she said.

"One of the flow on benefits from our clients creating art and being able to share it with other artists is that all of sudden there is a shared interest which fosters relationships.

"This is really important for our clients as they can share their passion for art with a likeminded person and remove barriers that can exist in the wider community to build beautiful, and natural relationships." 🍷

# Artist Mikaela Castledine wins the top Mandorla Art Award prize

**Perth artist Mikaela Castledine's first entry into the Mandorla Art Award has earned her the top prize, sponsored by St John of God Health Care.**

The glass sculpture titled *God is in the House* turned humble materials such as glasses, bottles and eggs cups into an architectural masterpiece reimagining religious buildings.

"I always read the theme but it never seemed to fit until this year, the theme "And then I saw a new heaven and a new earth" resonated with what I have been exploring in my art work," Mikaela said.

"I had been to Burma and India and spent a lot of time exploring how religious buildings, no matter what religion, seem to have similar architecture which is where I found my inspiration.

"For me the process was about converting the ordinary into the extraordinary and in creating *God is in the House* I was able to use glasses, bottles and eggs cups and other everyday materials and turn them into something more."

The finished product earned Mikaela the St John of God Health Care major \$25,000 prize, which is one of Australia's major art awards and is the country's most significant thematic Christian art prize.

Mandorla Art Award Chairperson Dr Angela McCarthy said she was deeply impressed with the winning work.

"Her work offers us a new vision where everything is transparent in the new heaven and new earth that God creates for us. No hidden corners, no dark spaces, no locked doors," she said.

Mikaela's work will join the Mandorla Art Award collection which is housed at New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery.

The win also continues Mikaela's family connection with St John of God Health Care with multiple pieces by her mother and artist Valeria McDonald a part of the organisation's art collection.

St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Shane Kelly congratulated Mikaela on winning the prize and said supporting the arts was a part of the organisation's commitment to enhancing the overall health and wellbeing of the community.

"It is great to see an artist of Mikaela's calibre entering the awards and creating works that interpret Bible passages in such creative and varied ways," he said.



**Pictured:** Artists Mikaela Castledine with her work 'God is in the House' and judges Anne Ryan and Jarrod McKenna.

"As a healthcare provider, we believe that supporting the arts in the community, and similarly promoting the use of the arts in the services we offer, helps fulfil our Mission to promote life to the full by promoting personal growth, fostering artistic interests and abilities and supporting healing." 🍷

# A million thanks to our home care nurses

A generous bequest from a deceased St John of God Health Choices patient has helped put the spotlight on the importance of home visiting nurses to continuing our care beyond the hospital walls.

The service recently received the \$1 million bequest from a long-time patient who was visited daily by nurses at home in Ballarat.

“A big thank you to this patient and their family for this generous bequest,” St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Shane Kelly said.

“It is wonderful to know that our home nursing care made such a difference in this patient’s life that they were moved to help us continue providing these services to the Ballarat community.

“This is testament to how valued and highly regarded our home nursing services are to our patients.”

This year, work started on integrating St John of God Health Choices more closely with our Western Australian and Victorian hospitals to provide better continuity of care after patients are discharged from hospital.

Shane said this structural change would give hospital caregivers a better understanding of the services

available and be able to more easily refer patients to home nursing care.

“Our results in Western Australia over the last 12 months show that demand is growing – we have experienced a 24 per cent increase in referrals and our postnatal care midwives have seen more mothers in their home than ever before,” he said.

“This shows we have reviewed and integrated our service at the right time to give patients better access to care.”

Shane said home nursing care was also in demand in Victoria by those referred from other hospitals.

“In the Melbourne metropolitan area, many of our patients are referred from other hospitals, so integrating St John of God Health Choices with the hospitals and enabling the service to be tailored for this market, means we have a great opportunity to build and extend services we offer to patients as they transition back home,” he said.

“Home and community nursing is an important part of our Mission

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***“It is wonderful to know that our home nursing care made such a difference in this patient’s life that he was moved to help us continue providing these services to the Ballarat community.”***

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at St John of God Health Care as it provides greater choice and allows patients to maintain independence, and receive appropriate clinical care in the comfort and security of their own home.

“Throughout the healthcare industry there is a growing understanding that providing patients with hospital care in the home is really important – not only to meet patient preferences but



**Pictured:** Bequest family member Kate Bennett, St John of God Ballarat Hospital Nurse Manager Leanne Sizeland, bequest family members Marie Merriman and Carmel Gove, and St John of God Health Care Eastern Hospitals Executive Director Bryan Pyne.

also because in some circumstances patient outcomes improve when cared for in the home.

“This means there will be more opportunities in the future for care modalities to be done in the home and this integration will mean we are

prepared and able to meet the needs of our patients today and tomorrow.”

Throughout 2018, work will continue to better integrate St John of God Health Choices with our hospitals and ensure our services are meeting the needs of the communities we serve. 🍷

# Horizon House supports Dusty fulfil a lifelong dream

**St John of God Horizon House Broome graduate, 19-year-old Dusty, had fulfilled his life-long dream of joining the Australian Defence Force.**

When Dusty first arrived at Horizon House, he enrolled in a Certificate II in Horticulture at the Kimberley Training Institute with a view to becoming an Indigenous Ranger.

"I grew up on cattle stations and I have a real passion for looking after country so I was really engaged in what I was doing but I've wanted to join the Army since I was a kid," Dusty said.

Growing up, Dusty moved around a lot for his father's work and was never able to stay in one place for long.

In some of the remote locations his parents moved to there was no access to schooling so Dusty would go to stay with family for that period of time but the houses were often overcrowded and didn't provide a stable environment.

"When I moved into Horizon House and got my own bedroom it was amazing," Dusty said.

"Having some space and quiet time meant I was able to focus on myself and think more about my long-term future, what my goals were and what I needed to do to achieve them."

With the support of Horizon House, CoAct and Mamabulangin Aboriginal Corporation, Dusty was offered a spot in the Department of Environment's

Green Army program for 17 to 24 year olds.

He began working 30 hours a week as a paid volunteer on important cultural and environmental projects in and around Broome.

"I had applied for the Army a few times but had never been successful," Dusty said.

"Getting accepted into the Green Army really helped build my confidence and gave me the push I needed to keep trying and not give up on my dream."

Dusty embarked on a fitness program and successfully applied for the ADF Indigenous Recruits Program, which helps young Indigenous men and women develop their literacy and numeracy, something Dusty had struggled with due to changing schools so many times as a child.

His efforts paid off earlier this year when Dusty was accepted into the Australian Defence Force.

"I've got a big family and one of my main motivations now is to be a good role model to my little brothers, sisters and cousins," Dusty said.

"Growing up as an overweight, red-haired, fair-skinned Aboriginal boy I got bullied a lot and I didn't have much



**Pictured:** Former Horizon House Broome resident Dusty

confidence, I would never have thought I could get to where I am today.

"Horizon House and the Green Army helped change that and gave me a sense of self belief that I didn't have before, they helped me realise what I was capable of.

"I want to help make sure other people, especially the kids in my family and the guys at Horizon House Broome know that if you commit to a goal and work hard, you can achieve it. I'm living proof." 🙌



# Medical student agreement guarantees next generation of doctors

**The next generation of doctors in WA has been guaranteed, following the signing of an agreement between Curtin University and St John of God Health Care for medical students to gain high quality clinical experience at St John of God Midland Public Hospital.**

St John of God Midland Public Hospital Chief Executive Officer Michael Hogan said as part of the agreement, the hospital will begin receiving medical students from Curtin University from 2019.

Based near the hospital in the old Midland Railway Workshops, construction started in May on the Curtin University Midland Campus.

The Midland Campus is expected to provide a number of medical, nursing, allied health and business courses.

Michael said when the new campus is opened in 2020, St John of God Midland Public Hospital would initially provide 60 student placements.

“Student placement numbers are expected to increase over the years,” he said.

“The hospital’s commitment to assisting the next generation of doctors extends well beyond medical student placements.

“It is hoped that once these students complete their studies, many of them will return as junior doctors to the hospital for further training.

“It is also hoped that some will establish practices in the area when they fully qualify.” 🍷



**Pictured:** Front (L-R): WA Minister for Health Roger Cook, St John of God Midland Public Hospital CEO Michael Hogan, Curtin University Provost Prof John Cordery. Back (L-R): Students Jayde Frank and James Leigh

# Productive partnerships for palliative care

**St John of God Health Care's strong tradition of caring for people who are dying, and their families, is being recognised by a leading Catholic organisation who has sought advice to create a best-practice palliative care model.**

Catholic organisation MercyCare, which runs health care, aged care and disability and community services in WA, has sought St John of God Health Care's Group Manager Pastoral Services Eleanor Roderick to provide input on their palliative care model.

Eleanor is helping MercyCare develop an approach to caring for people in their final phase of life, upholding that person's dignity and respecting their spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs.

"This project will also develop a pastoral services framework for bereavement support which I have extensive experience in having developed a contemporary model of pastoral care in my current role as well as my previous role as the St John of God Murdoch Community Hospice's inaugural manager," Eleanor said.

"Sanctity of life is a fundamental underpinning of the Catholic Church's understanding of human existence. This understanding informs how we develop our palliative care and pastoral models at St John of God Health Care and I am excited to be able to use my experience to inform MercyCare's work in this area."

MercyCare's Executive Director Aged Care Services Jo Penman said it was fantastic to be able partner with St John of God Health Care and benefit from Eleanor's expertise and experience in developing a quality, person centered model of palliative care designed specifically for the aged care setting.

"There are clear similarities between our organisations as we both provide mission-based services to the WA community," she said.

"Catholic healthcare organisations provide up to half of all palliative care services in Australia so it makes sense that we draw on the expertise in our like-minded organisations to continue enhancing our care."

Eleanor said Pope Francis' Address to Pontifical Academy in March 2015 inspired her work in palliative care.

"He said palliative care was a testimony that the human person is always precious, even if marked by illness and age. This is why, when their life becomes very fragile and the end of their early existence approaches, we feel the responsibility to assist and accompany them in the best way possible," she said.

"I firmly believe that when someone is approaching the end of their life, whether that is in a hospital or aged care or community care facility, they need to be welcomed with compassionate care and respect for their dignity." 🍷

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***"Catholic healthcare organisations provide up to half of all palliative care services in Australia so it makes sense that we draw on the expertise in our like-minded organisations to continue enhancing our care."***

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# *New Trustee* brings world of experience

**Catholic education and healthcare leader Susan Pascoe AM has been welcomed as a Trustee of St John of God Health Care.**

St John of God Health Care Trustee Chair Ms Eva Skira said that Ms Pascoe's combined exceptional skills and experience with a personal ethos that was aligned to the St John of God Health Care Mission would benefit the organisation.

"Susan has held complex leadership and governance roles across government, health and education sectors and has represented Australia at many international forums and delegations," she said.

"She has received numerous awards and commendations recognising her service ethos and has outstanding leadership experience within the Catholic sector, particularly in the areas of education and health.

"Susan brings additional insight and perspective to the oversight of our Ministry at St John of God Health Care and we are delighted to welcome her as one of our Trustees."

Ms Pascoe was Chair of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO and was the Australian delegate to the General Conference in Paris on a number of occasions. She has represented Australia at many other international events including the United National World Education Form and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

She was appointed the Inaugural Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission, was one of three Commissioners for the Royal Commission into Victoria's Black

Saturday Bushfires in 2009, and is the recipient of a large number of awards and honorary appointments.

She was previously a Board Member at Cabrini Health and Chair of Patient Experience and Clinical Governance Committee, and has held a range of other high-profile governance roles in Catholic education.

In 2007, Ms Pascoe was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for education through a range of executive roles, and international initiatives for educators in the Pacific region. 🍷

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***"Susan will bring additional insight and perspective to the oversight of our Ministry at St John of God Health Care and we are delighted to welcome her as one of our Trustees."***

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