

# Community PULSE

Spring | 2015



Western Health

2014  
Premier's Health  
Service of the Year



Western Health Board Chair, The Hon Bronwyn Pike, State Member for Footscray, The Hon Marsha Thomson MP, Minister for Health, The Hon Jill Hennessy and Premier of Victoria, The Hon Daniel Andrews at Sunshine Hospital.

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*Together, caring for the West*



The second half of the year has seen Western Health celebrate some exciting new developments across the health service.

Victorian Premier The Hon Daniel Andrews and Health Minister, The Hon Jill Hennessy visited Sunshine Hospital recently to announce the first step in the development of the new \$200 million Women's and Children's Hospital, with the release of Expressions of Interest for its construction.

The release of the EOI means we are closer to being able to provide the best possible environment in caring for mothers, babies and families in our region.

The Victorian Government also announced that the new hospital will be named after Victoria's first female Premier, the late Joan Kirner. The Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital is a fitting tribute to The Hon Joan Kirner, who was a strong ambassador for Melbourne's west and a passionate advocate for women and children.

In June, we marked the official opening of the new Interventional Radiology Suite at Sunshine Hospital, which will provide some significant new benefits, including the ability to undertake far more complex procedures requiring high level imaging and interventional radiology techniques. The equipment is also suitable for performing angiography examinations on children.

This is the final piece of the puzzle in establishing intensive care, cardiac and interventional radiology services at Sunshine Hospital.

With the Women's and Children's Hospital being developed over the next three years, this interventional suite will also be invaluable in assisting women with complications during pregnancy or birth.

Our hospitals continue to respond to very significant patient demand and we are constantly working to streamline services, however wait times for our emergency department patients can become very long. I would encourage you to consider going to a GP if possible, to avoid the need for a long wait in a busy hospital emergency department. There are also now a number of after hours services and home visiting GPs across the Western suburbs.

Western Health's commitment to education and training was acknowledged in June, when we were announced as a finalist in the 2015 Victorian Training Awards Employer of the Year category, along with McDonalds and Airservices Australia.

Being named as a finalist was a fantastic achievement, as we are the first health service to be recognised in this category.

Best wishes for the remainder of 2015. ♥

Associate Professor Alex Cockram  
Chief Executive, Western Health

## Commitment to education and training recognised

Western Health's commitment to education and training has been acknowledged at this year's Victorian Training Awards.

The awards celebrate the best and brightest from across Victoria's TAFE and training sectors, with Western Health named as one of three finalists in the prestigious Employer of the Year category, along with McDonalds and Airservices Australia.

Congratulations to McDonalds, who was named the 2015 Employer of the Year, at a ceremony at Crown Palladium on Friday 28 August.

Western Health's Accredited and Workforce Registered Training Organisation (RTO) Manager, Annette de Jager, said being selected as one of the finalists for the Employer of the Year recognised Western Health's commitment to providing staff with the highest standard of training.

"Western Health has created development opportunities for all staff to access," Annette said.

"A key strategy has been to deliver customised, flexible and accessible training for all staff via the Western Health RTO.

"We successfully continue to provide staff with training that focuses on the knowledge and skills required to perform their role competently, whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification.

"We have a strong focus on our staff at Western Health and training enables our people to develop and progress in their careers," Annette added.

This was the first time a health service has been shortlisted for this state award. Western Health's submission focused on the range of nationally accredited qualifications and short courses provided to its 6500 employees via the Western Health RTO, the innovative programs and tools developed to deliver these qualifications and the successful partnerships with Victoria University & SWC Training.

The Western Health RTO has supported close to 40% of Western Health's 6500 staff in attaining a formal qualification in the past four years and on average delivers at least 200 hours of training per month. ♥



(Left to right) Western Health Accredited & Workforce Training Manager - Western Health RTO, Annette De Jager, Western Health Director Quality, Safety and Patient Experience, Louise McKinlay and Executive Director of Business Skills Viability, Anna Henderson at the 2015 Victorian Training Awards.



State Member for Footscray The Hon Marsha Thomson MP, Minister for Health, The Hon Jill Hennessy and Premier of Victoria, The Hon Daniel Andrews in Ward 2C at Sunshine Hospital.

## Premier and Health Minister visit Sunshine Hospital

**Families in Sunshine Hospital's 2C Maternity Ward received some special visitors on Wednesday 29 July, with Victorian Premier The Hon Daniel Andrews and Minister for Health, The Hon Jill Hennessy visiting the ward.**

The pair, along with State Member for Footscray, Marsha Thomson MP, received a guided tour from Western Health Board Chair, The Hon Bronwyn Pike and Chief Executive, A/Prof Alex Cockram.

The Minister announced that Expressions of Interest (EOI) have now been released for construction of the new Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital, which is scheduled for completion by the end of 2018.

Design consultants have already been engaged to commence work on the new state-of-art facility and the construction company will work with this team to develop the design of the new hospital to meet the highest quality standards of modern healthcare, before building the new world class hospital from the ground up.

Western Health staff will also provide vital insights throughout the design process to ensure the new hospital delivers the best possible care for patients.

Preliminary work for the new hospital will be carried out over the next year, with main construction works to commence in late 2016.

"The EOI is a key step for this major project, which will ensure mums and their newborns in Melbourne's west get the best care, in the one location and closer to home," The Hon Jill Hennessy said.

"There is nothing more precious than welcoming a baby into the world and I'm absolutely delighted that mums in the West will be able to have their babies born in the West."

The Minister also confirmed that Western Health will receive funding to expand critical care capacity at Footscray and Sunshine by four new critical care beds, which will treat an additional 484 patients each year. 🌸

## Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital

**The new \$200 million Women's and Children's Hospital to be built at Sunshine will be named after the late Premier, Joan Kirner AC.**

The first female Premier of Victoria, Joan Kirner was a passionate advocate over many decades for women and children.

The Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital will boast 20 maternity rooms, 237 beds, 39 special care nursery cots, four operating theatres and other clinics and will be based in the area Joan lived in and campaigned for over decades – Melbourne's west.



"Joan was an absolute inspiration to all of us and we want to honour her and her legacy," Victorian Premier, The Hon Daniel Andrews said.

"The Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital will deliver vital services to families in Melbourne's west, a community Joan truly loved."

Joan Kirner was a strong ambassador for Melbourne's west, working closely with the local community for decades, particularly on issues of economic and social disadvantage.

The Hospital will cater for the growing needs of Melbourne's west which is experiencing significant growth, with the number of births at Sunshine Hospital projected to exceed 7000 per year by 2026.

"I am proud that this new hospital will be named after my friend, Joan, who fought strongly and passionately for families in Melbourne's west," Minister for Health, The Hon Jill Hennessy said.

"This hospital will specialise in maternity and paediatric services, which is a fitting tribute to a woman who fought for women and children her whole life." 🌸

# Interventional Radiology Suite Opening at Sunshine Hospital

## Sunshine Hospital has marked the official opening of its new Interventional Radiology Suite.

Representatives from Toshiba, who installed the equipment, which includes a Biplane Interventional Suite Package and Low Dose CT Scanner, were in attendance and carried out a Kagami-Biraki Ceremony to celebrate the opening.

This new equipment provides Sunshine Hospital with some significant new benefits.

The new CT scanner introduces the ability to see bariatric patients in a timely manner and provides a lower radiation dosage, while the biplane interventional suite provides the ability to perform angiography examinations on children and eliminates the need to transfer patients to Footscray Hospital for imaging.

"This is the final piece of the puzzle in the establishment of intensive care, cardiac and interventional radiology services here at Sunshine Hospital," Western Health Chief Executive, Associate Professor Alex Cockram said.

*(Left to right) Western Health Chief Executive, A/Prof Alex Cockram, Toshiba General Manager Vascular Systems, Mr Atsushi Gotoh, Toshiba Group Manager Asia & Oceania Group, Mr Masami Tanaka and Toshiba General Manager Monica King.*

"This interventional suite is an incredibly important resource for our patients – over the next 12 months, up to 1200 patients could receive treatment with the aid of this equipment - treatment that they have been unable to receive at this hospital until now.

"With the Women's and Children's Hospital being developed here over the next three years, this interventional suite will also

be invaluable in assisting women with complications during pregnancy or birth," A/Prof Cockram added.

The opening marks another step in the expansion of Sunshine Hospital. Since the start of this year, Western Health has undergone some of the biggest changes in its history, with the opening of Critical Care Services at Sunshine Hospital. ❤️



## Dr Phong Pham joins Western Health Board

### Western Health recently welcomed new board member, Dr Phong Pham, who commenced in his role at the start of July.



Dr Pham, a former Rhodes Scholar, is an expert in public policy and financial governance, having spent 12 years in Canberra including working as Deputy Chief of Staff for

The Hon. Nicola Roxon and The Hon. Tanya Plibersek during their times as Federal Ministers for Health and Ageing.

Dr Pham moved back to his hometown of Melbourne two years ago to take up the position of Principal Health Specialist in the Strategy and Operations division of Telstra Health. In his current role he works

with health organisations and government on issues such as eHealth, Medicare, pharmaceuticals and prescribing, primary care policy, and disability services.

"The opportunity to join the Western Health board was appealing because it's an opportunity to contribute," said Dr Pham.

"Working in Government gives you one perspective, but you don't get to have that close interaction with how health services operate 'on the ground' – this [becoming a Board member] is an opportunity to work in a space where the practical and the policy fit together".

Western Health's strong sense of community and social mission appealed greatly to Dr Pham.

He said the organisation had a vital role to play in working with health providers in the region such as GPs and the newly established Primary Health Network structure.

"A hospital is not just an island; we have to think about how we relate to the wider community and how we work with them," said Dr Pham.

The son of Vietnamese immigrants, Dr Pham also said that the large Vietnamese community in Melbourne's west meant that he felt a strong connection to our community. He holds a Doctorate of Philosophy (for which he was awarded a Rhodes scholarship for Victoria), a Master of Arts, Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science.

Thank you to outgoing Western Health Board members Associate Professor Cassandra Szoek and Malcolm Peacock, AM, for their dedication and commitment to Western Health over the past three years. Both members concluded their terms on the Board on 30 June 2015. ❤️

# The glitz and glamour of the 2015 BreastWest Fashion Gala

The 2015 BreastWest Fashion Gala was a huge success, raising \$64,000 to assist women on the West who have been diagnosed with breast cancer



(Left to right) Western Health Chief Executive A/Prof Alex Cockram, BreastWest Patron, The Hon Nicola Roxon and Western Health Board Chair, The Hon Bronwyn Pike.

For the 520 guests who attended the event on Thursday 13 August at Moonee Valley Racing Club, the glitz and glamour of the evening did not disappoint—with an elegant performance from renowned Australian soprano, Marina Prior, bringing the crowd to their feet.

The stars of the evening were the eleven amazing models, all of whom have their own breast cancer story and have received treatment at Western Health. The models were escorted by a selection of Western Bulldog players.

All proceeds from the BreastWest Fashion Gala directly benefit women in the west with breast cancer, providing special breast care packs and purchasing specialised equipment for improving patient care.

The funds from this year's event will go towards purchasing a Breast Specimen Scanner – an important new technology, which provides on-the-spot analysis of tissue specimens—the outcomes of which are less time in surgery and better care for women having surgery for breast cancer.

It was also announced on the evening that the Hon Nicola Roxon has agreed to become the inaugural Patron of BreastWest. Nicola was a co-founder of BreastWest 10 years ago and while she later became the Federal Health Minister, she continued her commitment to the organisation. 💕



Kerry O'Donovan and Joel Hamling



Aroha Bush and Michael Talia



Karen Ryan and Tom Liberatore

# New name and surrounds for vital palliative care service



The Mercy and Western Day Hospice has undergone some significant changes in recent months, culminating with its recent re-naming to the Wellcare Program.

The Program's activity room, which is located in the Palliative Care Ward at Sunshine Hospital, recently underwent a refurbishment, complete with new kitchen, flooring and furniture to help brighten the surrounds and create a more comfortable and modern environment for clients who attend the program each Tuesday and Thursday.

The new name aligns more closely with wellness centres of excellence across the country to provide well-being, independence and enjoyment for clients while providing a 'day off' for carers.

The Wellcare Program provides a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment for people with a life limiting illness who are living in Melbourne's West.

"We believe that the new name reflects the new direction that the program is taking with the introduction of new therapies and the growth of the service to extend services to clients beyond just one room of the hospital," Wellcare Program Nurse Co-ordinator, Jenni Zerafa said.

The Wellcare Program remains a joint initiative between Western Health and Mercy Palliative Care.



Clients, staff and volunteers enjoy the new surrounds in the refurbished Wellcare Program room.

The program offers a host of activities including:

- Nursing assessment and clinical care including, pain assessment and wound care
- Creative activities
- Relaxation therapy
- Massage therapy
- Music therapy
- Cooking

- Counselling
- Gentle exercise
- Outings

The Wellcare Program is staffed by a multi disciplinary team including, nurses, music therapists, counsellors and volunteers. medical support is also available.

For further information about the Wellcare Program, contact Jenni Zerafa on 8345 1226

## High Tea helps grant wishes for terminally ill patients

Fine food and plenty of laughs were the order of the day at Watergardens Hotel on Saturday 25 July as the annual High Tea for Hospice was held.



(Left to right) Western Health's Divisional Director Subacute & Aged Care Services, Sue Race, Wellcare Program nurses Hilda Tibben and Ivonne Cram, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Mary-Anne Thomas MP and Wellcare Program Nurse Co-ordinator Jenni Zerafa.

The event, which attracted nearly 300 staff, patients, volunteers and supporters, raised over \$9000.

Attendees were treated to an array of tasty savoury and sweet treats, a performance by up-and-coming Melbourne singer, Juliana Barillaro and were the first to hear the exciting news that the Mercy and Western Day Hospice had officially changed its name to The Wellcare Program.

Guest speakers at the event included Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Mary-Anne Thomas MP and Wellcare Program Nurse Co-ordinator, Jenni Zerafa.

Funds raised from the event will go towards supporting the clients who attend The Wellcare Program, particularly the 'Grant-A-Wish' program.

Those in the community with a life-limiting illness often find it difficult to get to special events, but through the Grant-A-Wish program, experiences are tailored to the client and family's wish and assist in providing special memories.

Some past wishes have included going to concerts and meeting idols such as Michael Buble and Athol Guy, family weekends away and a trip down the Great Ocean Road in a convertible.

All wishes are funded through donations.

# Bargains galore at the Williamstown Hospital Opportunity Shop

## Attention bargain hunters.

To highlight the huge range of quality items stocked in The Williamstown Hospital Opportunity Shop, a new email newsletter called 'Product of the Month,' is now available.

"You name it, we usually have it!" Co-ordinator of The Williamstown Hospital Opportunity Shop, Nicky Cooper said. "From bestselling books, to Australian and international designer fashions, antique treasures and many weird and wonderful finds in between."

"It's often the item that we place on the shelf thinking 'I'm not sure that will sell' that is snapped up within minutes with the new owner claiming they've been searching for months."

"We're very grateful for the amazing donations we receive from the community," Nicky added.

To highlight the range of items in the shop, an email database called 'Product of the Month' has recently commenced.

Simply send your email address to [opshopwtn@wh.org.au](mailto:opshopwtn@wh.org.au) or click on the link through the shop's website - [www.westernhealth.org.au/opshopwtn](http://www.westernhealth.org.au/opshopwtn) and when there is something worth shouting about, the volunteer team will let you know.

"Op Shopping is not just a fun way to add to your wardrobe, it's also a way of making a contribution to a worthy cause," Nicky said.

"Last year the volunteer team at The Williamstown Hospital Opportunity Shop raised \$137,000 to support Williamstown Hospital and they hope to top that this year.

"Please say hello and a big thanks to the volunteers you meet if you pop in. They are a fantastic team who donate so much of their personal time to a wonderful cause and they do an amazing job of maintaining a very busy retail store, always with time for a chat and a laugh," Nicky added.

For further information about The Williamstown Hospital Opportunity Shop, which is located at 47 Ferguson Street Williamstown, please contact Nicky Cooper on 0401 684 977 or [Nicky.Cooper2@wh.org.au](mailto:Nicky.Cooper2@wh.org.au) 



(Left to right) Williamstown Hospital Opportunity Shop volunteers Anna Sawicki, Maralyn Bezzant, Margaret Stephenson, Nigel Emms and Thu Nguyen.



(Left to right) Maribyrnong Secondary College students Piper Macleod, Alana Piruccio, Julia Seymour and Caitlyn Cramer.

## Community partnerships help teach valuable life skills

A focus on community partnerships has given local students from Maribyrnong Secondary College invaluable insight into the day-to-day running of a busy hospital.

As part of the Western Health volunteer team's commitment to fostering community partnerships, five students recently spent several months volunteering as part of their elective subject.


"This elective provides practical opportunities for students to work in partnership with local community organisations," Maribyrnong Secondary College Community Participation Co-ordinator, Lisa Fusinato said.

"Lessons include research, planning and module work - altruism, community connectedness, volunteering and teamwork - before students begin weekly volunteering at a number of community based organisations, including Footscray Hospital.

"Students gain personal skills, meet new people and experience challenges while making a difference to people in the community."

The students volunteered in numerous areas and undertook various activities with patients, including manning the tea and coffee trolley, showing visitors around the hospital, along with doing bedside reading, games and social support.

"This has been a wonderful opportunity for the students to push themselves out of their comfort zones," Western Health Manager of Community Engagement & Volunteers, Jo Spence said.

"They have surprised themselves with how they now relate to a hospital setting, they now have a better understanding of the impact of engaging with older people who may not be well and how this can actually change that person's day and how they feel." 

# 2015 Western Health Annual Meeting

*The Board of Directors of Western Health invite you to attend the 2015 Western Health Annual Meeting*



Western Health

**Venue:**

The Panorama Room  
Flemington Events Centre  
Flemington Racecourse

**Date:**

Wednesday 25 November 2015

**Time:**

5:30pm

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Presentation of staff service awards will commence at 4:30pm.

The formal Annual Meeting will commence at 5:30pm.

Light refreshments will be provided following the meeting.

Parking is available in the VIP car park area.

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**All are welcome to attend**

*Together, caring for the West*

[www.westernhealth.org.au](http://www.westernhealth.org.au)

**Footscray Hospital**

Gordon Street  
Footscray VIC 3011  
Locked Bag 2  
Footscray VIC 3011  
8345 6666

**Sunshine Hospital**

Furlong Road  
St Albans VIC 3021  
PO Box 294  
St Albans VIC 3021  
8345 1333

**Sunshine Hospital  
Radiation Therapy  
Centre**

176 Furlong Road  
St Albans VIC 3021  
8395 9999

**Western Centre  
for Health Research  
& Education**

Sunshine Hospital  
Furlong Road  
St Albans VIC 3021  
8345 1333

**Sunbury Day Hospital**

7 Macedon Road  
Sunbury VIC 3429  
9732 8600

**Williamstown Hospital**

Railway Crescent  
Williamstown VIC 3016  
9393 0100

**Drug Health Services**

3-7 Eleanor Street  
Footscray VIC 3011  
8345 6682

**Hazeldean  
Transition Care**

211-215 Osborne Street  
Williamstown VIC 3016  
9397 3167



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