



Message from the Chief Executive

Welcome to the 5th edition of Far West in Focus.

“Thank You for Keeping Our Community Safe”. This statement of heartfelt appreciation by the organisation to you was on the cover of the notebook you would have received by now. We hope that this small token will be a reminder that your efforts over the last two years in particular have been appreciated by everyone in our community and organisation.

This month saw us acknowledge the Sorry Day and the Reconciliation Week. Thank you all for making the effort to take part in these significant events to show our solidarity with our Aboriginal communities. And what about those shirts!

In May we were able to successfully sign the Type 2 Diabetes Collaborative Commissioning Memorandum of Understanding between Western NSW LHD, Regional Doctors Network, Western PHN and the Ministry of Health which will contribute to providing life-saving integrated services in our community.

We have had a great return to Broken Hill Afair. I could not have been any more proud with

our staff in the way they represented the LHD and the pride with which they engaged with the visitors. We also won the Best Indoor Exhibitor Award which you can read about in the following pages. What an effort!

In June we are looking forward to launching the Telestroke program, a partnership initiative with South-Eastern Sydney LHD. Our portfolio of successful potentially life-saving clinical partnerships is growing each year.

The BurongaOne project is on course for completion and occupancy late June/early July and we are now well underway in planning for Wentworth, Broken Hill Emergency Department and the Mental Health in-patient unit.

Please take care and thank you.



Mr Umit Agis

-- Umit Agis, Chief Executive



FWLHD showing our support for Reconciliation Week — Pages 4-5

Nurses and Midwives in Excellence Awards

We celebrated International Nurses Day on 12 May to recognise the excellent and diverse work nurses do every day in the many different settings and specialties across the District, including health services, primary health care, aged care and multipurpose settings.

This year's theme was 'Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health' which acknowledged the important role nurses have in leading and improving health outcomes for people all around the world.

We also acknowledge exceptional performance amongst our nursing and midwifery staff by presenting six individual and one team Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery awards for 2022.

The awards were presented by Far West LHD Executive Director of Nursing & Midwifery/Director of Clinical Governance, Ms Wendy

Gleeson and Chief Executive, Mr Umit Agis.

The Award recipients for 2022 are:

- Nurse of the Year (Assistant in Nursing /Enrolled Nurse/Registered Nurse) – Viv Fazulla.
- Midwife of the Year (Registered Midwife/Assistant in Midwifery) – Chandler Rieck.
- Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife of the Year (Assistant in Nursing /Enrolled Nurse/Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife) – Sasha Carlaw.
- New to Practice Nurse/Midwife of the Year – Avril Fazulla.
- Team of the Year Award (Nursing/ Midwifery Team) – Education Team.
- Judith Meppem Leadership Award – Rebecca Hatch.
- Healing Heart Award – Tim O'Neill.

Ms Wendy Gleeson congratulated all the award winners and those nominated and thanked all nurses for their hard work and commitment every day.

"Nurses are caring by nature and play a very important role in all stages of a person's life," she said.

"The health of our local community members is of utmost importance and I'm proud of our nurses who are continually working to improve health outcomes and health care experiences for everyone who lives, work and visits the Far West Local Health District.

"They have worked incredibly hard throughout the COVID-19 pandemic," she said.

"Nursing is a rewarding career, and our nurses are excellent role models for members of the community who may consider nursing as a career choice."

Congratulations to Award winners!

NURSE OF THE YEAR – Vivienne Fazulla

Viv has worked as the Health Service Manager in our remote Tibbooburra Health Service for many years.

Viv is highly regarded by her peers, patients and families. She builds therapeutic relationships with her patients and has earned the trust and respect of her community, she advocates for her patients and ensures they receive safe and quality patient care.

Viv shows a high level of dedication to her new graduate nurses, facilitating their learning and providing a home for them during their 'outback experience'. She goes above and beyond to make sure they are supported not just in their training but emotionally. She understands what they need to make their stay in a remote facility rewarding.



MIDWIFE OF THE YEAR AWARD – Chandler Rieck

Local midwives celebrated International Day of the Midwife on Thursday, 5 May 2022 where a special ceremony in the Maternity Unit included the presentation of the District's Midwife of the Year Award to Chandler Rieck

Chandler is an early -to-mid career midwife who has learnt quickly, adapts well to the workplace and brings others along with her as she learns, teaches others and engages the women and families whom she looks after. Chandler is kind, relatable, caring, and intelligent with a sense of humour that leaves women and other staff feeling well looked after and in safe hands.

Chandler was nominated by several colleagues as a skilled, caring and passionate midwife dedicated to providing excellent women centred care. Chandler ensures that all her women receive the best education possible to be best prepared for pregnancy, labour, birth and motherhood.



See next page for more Award Winners

Nurse Awards 2022

NEW TO PRACTICE NURSE/MIDWIFE – Avril Fazulla

Avril is a new graduate working in our Intensive Care Unit. She goes above and beyond for not only her patients, but also her colleagues. She is conscientious, driven, compassionate and an active team member who promotes educational opportunities and skill development. Avril engages in practices that seek to improve her clinical environment and upskilling of staff.

Avril is well respected and regarded by her colleagues, peers and patients. She demonstrates CORE values in her clinical practice daily.



TEAM OF THE YEAR – Nursing Education Team

The education team have worked extremely well together in an ever-changing environment. As a team they support each other well, assisting with one another's workloads. They are made up of a caring, respectful, committed, innovative and hardworking individuals.

They work tirelessly to support staff from a variety of clinical areas and roles across the district. They are committed to supporting and working alongside staff, to strive for excellence in person centred care to achieve the best possible outcomes.

They provide support and assistance as new staff settle into a new role, and support staff to be skilled and caring professionals. The team are flexible and resilient always happy to support and help the district and have stepped up performing many roles to keep the community safe in the pandemic.

They are a team are dedicated to building a positive workplace culture and morale and empower nurses to achieve their best.



Team of the Year Award (Nursing/Midwifery Team) – Education Team. Represented by Pam Stuchbery, Kahliia Liston and Samara Rogers.

HEALING HEART AWARD – Timothy O'Neill

Tim's support and helpfulness goes far and beyond that expected.

As Acting Health Service Manager he would wear many hats, and always willing to work on the floor, assisting the staff with medication and patient care. Tim's empathy and compassion for his team is always evident and very appreciated. He cares for staff welfare, always checking and asking if they are OK, and offering assistance.

Tim will always make himself available to staff and as Acting Health Service Manager his door was never closed.



ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NURSE/MIDWIFE (AIN, EN, RN, RM) – Sasha Carlaw

Sasha is an enrolled nurse whose passion for nursing is something to be admired. Positive feedback has been received from her managers, peers and patients commending her wonderful work ethic and nursing skills.

Her empathy and communication skills showing her respect, openness and collaboration with our aboriginal patients and families has been witnessed many times.

Sasha is currently studying to further her career which shows her dedication to nursing, our patients and our health service.



JUDITH M EPPER LEADERSHIP – Rebecca Hatch

Rebecca has been recognised by her peers and also members of our partnering organisations.

Rebecca is an Registered Nurse at Wilcannia Multi-Purpose Service who undertook the role as Acting Health Service Manager in February 2021. She leads by example, is supportive, encouraging and kind to her colleagues, patients and their families. She has a genuine passionate commitment to her community.

She has excellent leadership skills and a driven dedication to excellence in nursing care. Rebecca promotes and embodies the core elements of what a rural and remote nurse is.



Colourful show of support for Reconciliation Week

Staff have shown their support for Reconciliation Week by wearing new Indigenous-themed shirts as a sign of acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land upon which we work and live.

The new shirts feature in its cultural design the recently developed Far West LHD 'Nharatji' Aboriginal artwork which symbolises the District.

Staff received a shirt to wear on Monday (30 May), chosen as the designated day for all staff to wear the shirt and show their support for Reconciliation Week. Some staff members will receive their shirts in coming weeks.



March for Reconciliation and working together

FWLHD staff represented the District in the Reconciliation Week march in Broken Hill on Friday, 27 May which started in the Town Square and led to Sturt Park.

The LHD's Corina Kemp (Director Aboriginal Health, Planning and Community) and Melanie Chynoweth (Community Engagement) are pictured right making our contribution to the 'Sea of Hands' in Sturt Park,

which was a positive message of support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The 'Sea of Hands' represents a united community in solidarity with First Nations People.

Corina said: "The march represented reconciliation, reflecting on the theme for 2022, Be Brave, Make Change. For me it demonstrates me being brave and working with my communities, people, partners and others to make a change within our communities, it's about coming together and working together in partnership!"

She added that this march was the first of many to come for reconciliation within the Far West. "To be able to support and walk alongside our partners, community, young people and our children reflects and highlights the great leadership within our communities."

"As a health service, we should all strive to come together and work together. Together we can, as one we can't!"



Sea of hands: FWLHD's Corina Kemp and Mel Chynoweth represented the LHD in the coming together of our community for Reconciliation Week.

The event in Sturt Park included a traditional smoking ceremony and other activities.



Our stand at Agfair 2022 (the first since 2018 due to COVID pandemic) was very popular, to the extent we won the Best Indoor Exhibitor Award!

We were in the Rotary Pavilion and captured a variety of age groups coming in to talk with our staff (rostered on throughout both days), access the information we had available on services and programs and pick up some free giveaways that included fruit, water and practical items for everyday use.

The aim was to provide a welcoming booth for everyone from

Agfair 2022 an exceptional success

all walks of life and we wanted to ensure it was proactive, engaging, COVID-safe and a welcoming area for everyone.

As well as our very colourful display, our staff being available to talk to anyone was very well received. A big thanks to everyone who contributed their time and effort in engaging with our community members and with those who had

travelled from afar to participate in Agfair.

The level of community engagement and interaction from local residents and visitors with LHD staff was exceptional and information was shared about virtual health services, nursing pathways, employment opportunities, healthy eating, child and family services, mental health and drug and alcohol

services, dental care, support for when someone passes away and promoting services across the LHD. The promotion of our new virtual ICU service attracted much interest.

We also conducted a pop up COVID-19 vaccination clinic and that was well attended, including by landholders who appreciated the opportunity to get their shot!

A big thank you to all LHD staff for helping to organise and participating in the stand.

See you at the next Agfair!



Far West LHD's Corina Kemp (far right) and Melanie Chynoweth (far left) were presented Best Indoor Exhibitor Award for Agfair 2022 by Agfair Committee members Kevin Sinclair (President) and Erica Malloch (Secretary).

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE AGFAIR PHOTOS!





We also had Health Promotion and our RAMHP services at Agfair 2022



Nominations open for FWLHD staff awards

Nominations are now open to nominate our staff for recognition of the excellent and high quality care they provide in our health services.

We encourage you to think about the great work that is taking place and think about who you could nominate.

This year the categories are:

- **Inspiring Team**
- **Extraordinary Staff Member**
- **Volunteer Superstar**

We look forward to seeing many nominations come through which showcase the incredible work you are all doing for the Far West Local Health District and our communities.


You can nominate by scanning the QR code or visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/PNMMGNJ

Staff will be recognised at the the Far West LHD 12th Annual Health Innovation & Staff Recognition Awards 2022 to be held later this year.



Far West LHD 12th Annual Health Staff Recognition Awards 2022

If you would like to nominate any staff or teams for special recognition please scan the QR Code





Health
Far West
Local Health District

Future Health: Our roadmap to deliver services over the coming decade

[Future Health](#) is our guiding document that will act as a roadmap for how we deliver our services over the coming decade.

It builds on the achievements of our NSW State Health Plan and looks to position our health system to meet the needs of our patients, community and workforce over the coming years. It aims to deliver on our vision for a sustainable health system that delivers outcomes that matter most to patients and the community, is personalised, invests in wellness and is digitally enabled.

Thousands of individuals across NSW generously shared their insights to help shape our ambitious plan,

including:

- Patients, consumers and members of the general public from across a broad demographic – rural, regional and metro, young people to retirees, working families to full-time carers, as well as people from Aboriginal and CALD backgrounds

- Representatives from our many partners in care, including NGOs, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, primary care, aged care, medical schools and other health education and training providers.

- NSW Health staff of all disciplines and roles – medical, nursing, allied



health, policy and administrative – from across every part of the system.

Their aspirations have been translated into six strategic outcomes and 30 key objectives we hope to achieve.

We will implement the strategic outcomes and key objectives set out in Future

Health through a series of delivery plans and will monitor and report on progress across three horizons from 2022 to 2032.

The strategic outcomes will also be embedded across the health system through Service Agreements, Annual Business Plans, and local strategic planning. This will enable us to work towards our shared goals.

Visit the [NSW Health website](#) to view the full strategy.

Together, we'll help ensure everyone in our state benefits from a stronger, more effective public health system.

Far West LHD ‘...sounded like a made-up term!’

Dr Neil Jeyasingam and our former psychiatry resident, Dr Jessica Huang (pictured) had a successful presentation at the Royal Australian and New Zealand Psychiatry Congress recently.



Dr Jeyasingam presented on our use of a carer appraisal scale to involve carers in decision planning for the care of the mentally ill, and contributed to a panel on the ethics of involuntary mental health care.

Dr Huang presented the first ever review regarding the impact of involuntary care on mental health clinicians. Both spoke about the experience of working in the Far West, particularly our amazing sunsets.

"The congress was an excellent experience," said Dr Jeyasingam.

"I attended a Balint workshop and was able to pick up new ideas to bring back to our resilience group that we already do at Broken Hill for our junior medical officers. There was excellent training regarding innovations in electroconvulsive therapy, psychotherapy, and questions about how we view the impact of medical issues on our mental health.

"One issue I was a bit bemused at was more than one person was surprised to hear that there was, in fact, a health district out here. I had one attendee remark that the term 'Far West Local Health District' sounded like a made-up term!"

Dr Jeyasingam said a lighter moment at the Congress was the gelato stand...with very interesting flavours.

He added the Congress was chaired by Dr Andrew Howie, the former psychiatrist for Broken Hill.



North BH Cricket Club support for Oncology Unit

During February the North Broken Hill Cricket Club donned 'Pink' uniforms instead of the traditional blue and white colours of the club in order to raise awareness about breast cancer, and to raise funds for the Broken Hill Oncology Unit.

The club raised an incredible \$1,500 through a Go Fund Me page, as well as players being fined for a dropped catch or other on-field mishaps.

Tobias Hack from the North Broken Hill Cricket Club said: "Club members wanted to raise money for the local Oncology Unit as everyone has a story relating to cancer, particularly breast cancer. Whilst both women and men can get breast



cancer, we know of many grandmothers, mothers, wives, sisters and aunts impacted by breast cancer. It's a family journey as well."

Melissa Cumming Program Director for Cancer Services in Broken Hill, thanked the North Broken Hill Cricket Club for their generous donation to the Oncology Unit, which will be used to support patients when receiving chemotherapy or immunotherapy in the unit.

Tobias added: "This is something that the club is passionate about and will continue to wear these uniforms during February each year."

North Broken Hill Cricket Club team members Jordan Vella, Ethan Thomas and Dennis Watts present the \$1,500 to Oncology Nurses Victoria Crook and Ben Stellini.

Love Bites education for young people

The Violence Abuse and Neglect Service ran the Love Bites Year 10 Program in partnership with Mission Australia at both Broken Hill and Willyama High School during May 2022.

The program was well received with 65 students participating from Broken Hill High School and 52 students participating from Willyama High School.

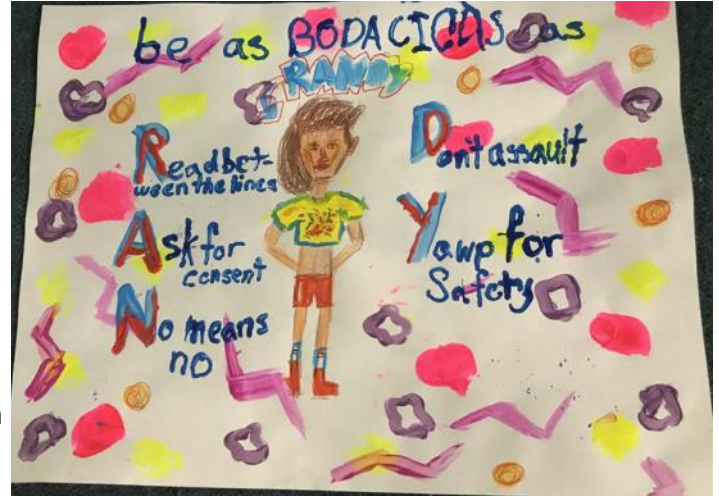
Love Bites is a Respectful

Love Bites aims to provide young people with a safe environment to examine, discuss and explore respectful relationships. All Love Bites programming takes a strength-based approach and views young people as active participants who are able to make choices for themselves and their relationships when supported with information and opportunity for skill development.

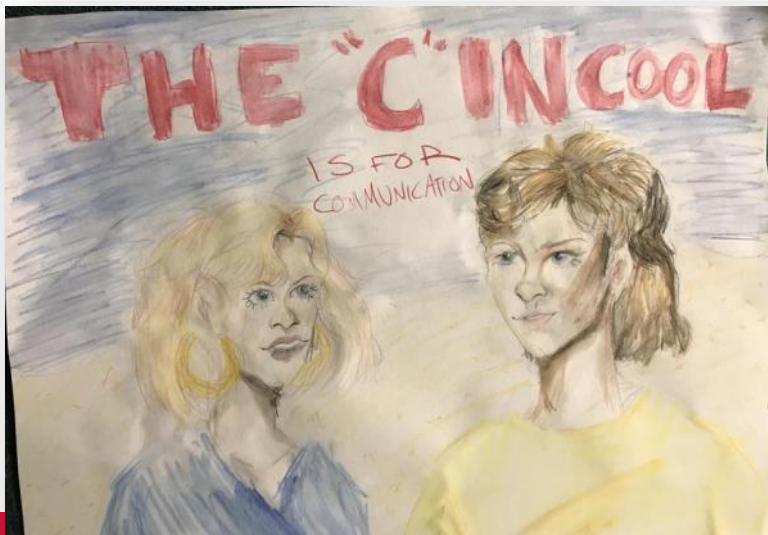
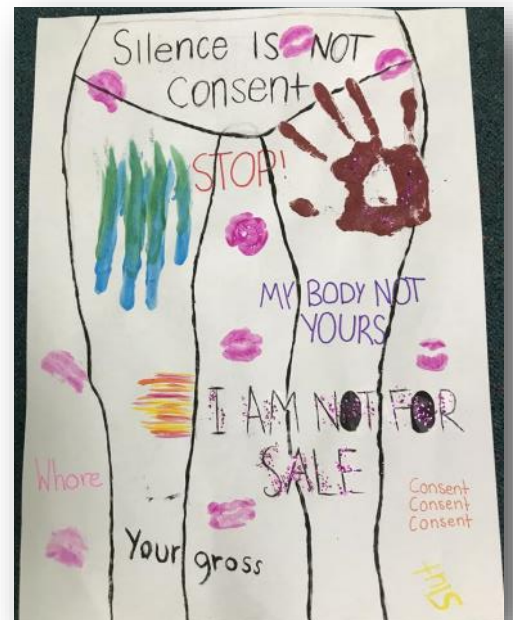
Love Bites education is focused on three critical areas for learning:

- Knowledge: youth-led collaborative learning
- Attitudes: critical thinking and decision-making and
- Behaviours: problem solving and communication skills

The overall aims of the programming are to equip young people with the knowledge needed to have respectful relationships, encourage and develop their skills in critical thinking and assist them in being able to problem solve and communicate effectively. When equipped in these areas, NAPCAN believes that young people can make the right choices for themselves and their relationships that are free from violence and abuse.



Relationships Education Program for young people aged 15-17 years. It consists of two interactive workshops: one on Relationship Violence, and one on Sex and Relationships, followed by creative art workshops.



April Falls Awareness in Emergency Department



April Falls Month® is an annual campaign to raise awareness about the impact of falls and to promote the latest best practice fall prevention strategies. The overall campaign goal is to get active and improve balance for fall prevention.

The last two years have been difficult with many social and fitness groups unable to continue due to COVID. This has contributed to an increase in inactivity and deconditioning in many adults especially the older members of our community.

For optimal physical and mental health, it is recommended that all adults (regardless of age, health, or ability) do 30-60min of physical activity most days. To prevent falls and maintain independence this should include exercise or activities that improve strength and balance. Every bit of activity helps.

This year's theme was BALANCE. The staff of emergency were reminded about Falls Prevention and Balance with different resources, learning packages, competitions and flamingos.

To raise the ED staff's awareness ASET Nurse Jane Cain provided staff with weekly resource emails, run a competition and dispensed goodies to staff to enjoy.



International Nurses Day was celebrated at Balranald MPS which included all sorts of sweet goodies to make the special occasion.



Performance and Talent (PAT)

Virtual demonstration sessions held every Thursday from 1:00 – 1:30pm ACST via Microsoft Teams

Enrol via My Health Learning Today!

PAT sessions now available

The People and Culture Directorate are pleased to announce that Performance and Talent (PAT) demonstration sessions are now available for staff to attend. Sessions are being held every Thursday from 01:00 – 01:30pm ACST.

Demonstration sessions will give staff a better understanding of the systems functionality and provide details on other resources and information available.

Enrol via My Health Learning today!

Driver Safety Educational Training — Broken Hill



The NSW Far West LHD MHDA Services funded a project conducted by Bronte Lee, Rural Adversity Mental Health Program Coordinator (RAMHP), to implement an educational program around driver safety.

The training was delivered by the Australian 4WD Academy and nationally accredited trainer/owner Michael McCulkin. The overall aim of this project was to meet the needs of rural and remote people, targeted towards providing a face to face theoretical and practical localised training opportunity in the communities of Broken Hill and White Cliffs.

The training focused on addressing key challenges, risks, and issues that community members experience in their localised setting. It was important to provide this form of training, as it allows people to access high quality face to face accredited and evidence based training locally. By providing engaging and accessible training this allows community members the opportunity to learn practical skills within a rural setting, rather than travelling and undertaking a driver safety training that is less realistic to the conditions rural people may experience within their local setting.

On the 14-15 of May 2022 a driver safety training course was provided in the community of Broken Hill.

The project provided 15 community members with the opportunity to participate in the driver safety training and learn theoretical and practical skills of driver safety. The training was well received from participants, and feedback received highlighted that they feel more confident driving in rural areas, understand the importance of checking your vehicle regularly, found the training extremely informative and supportive, were grateful for the opportunity in being able to undertake this training locally, and found it important to refresh their driving skills and knowledge of safety conscious.

It is hoped that those who attend the final two one-day driver safety training courses in the community of White Cliffs in early June 2022 will have a similar experience and learning to those that had attended the training in Broken Hill.

Participants in the BH course: Yvette Sanderson, Carol Doyle, Caryn Love, Angela Gray, Michael McCulkin (Training Instructor), Donna Watmough, Beccie Mcintosh, Sharon Trewin, Michael Mcivor, and Patrick Koo.





2021 | NSW Public Sector Employee Survey

More information about the PMES report and Action Plan can be found at [People & Culture PMES intranet page](#).

PMES Focused Update on Recognition

You said: *Receiving adequate recognition for your contributions from your organisation needs improvement.*

What we did: Gift of appreciation and recognition, the Chief Executive Unit arranged for a specially designed notebook and pen and a T-Shirt for all staff members. The Aboriginal artwork on these gifts were specifically designed for the Far West LHD and symbolise our district.

PMES Focused Update on Learning and Developments

You said: *You do not agree that your organisation is committed to developing its employees.*

What we did: With the introduction of the Performance and Talent (PAT) system, regular weekly training sessions are now available via Teams for all staff members. Additionally, one-on-one support is available at request. PAT is a mobile-friendly, simple-to-use online system. It's designed to make it easier for you to record, store and

review your performance information, and to align your goals. PAT will make it easier for you to meet your performance management responsibilities and for NSW Health to support your career development. More information about the PMES report and Action Plan can be found at [People & Culture PMES intranet page](#).

COLLABORATION | OPENNESS

BRILLIANCE
Nominations

RESPECT | EMPOWERMENT



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following staff for receiving a Brilliance Nomination in April 2022

Adrian Winters
Ashley Bennett
Bella Proctor
Branko Licul
Brianna Smith
Bridget Sutton
Brooke Napier
Brynn Kaye
Cassie Hawes
Chelsea Anderson
Christine Clifton
Danielle Toigo

Donna Papas
Emma Crawford
Emma Nilon
Evelyn Kelly
Grace Searle
ICU Team
Jacinta Barraclough
Janet Daley
Jess Cavalletto
Joe Worgan
John Lopez
Justine Farley

Kahlia Hickey
Karen Winter
Kylie Jolliffe
Laeth Jones
Lilo Thomas
Louise Heffernan
Medical Ward Staff
Megan Jordan
Melissa Welsh
Peter Ford
Rachael Spangler
Robert Tener

Robyn Stewart
Samara Rogers
Surgical Ward Nursing team
Tayla Solomon
Tegan Gray
Tiana Jusic
Umit Agis
Vanessa Burkinshaw
Violetta Mucerino

Do you have an idea for change, for a service improvement, better patient and staff experiences, or any burning project proposals?

Let us know — Scan the QR code or go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WBHNSHZ>



The Brilliance Nominations are a great way to share positive feedback with your peers for the great work they are doing. All Brilliance Nominations are logged in a register for the Annual FWLHD Health Staff Awards and then forwarded to the nominated staff member via email. **Scan the QR Code to nominate or go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/JNQK8D5**

Pain and ageing

Aged Care Corner...

Pain is defined by the International Association for the Study of Pain as ‘an unpleasant sensation and emotional experience which is associated with or resembling that associated with actual or potential tissue damage’. <https://www.painaustralia.org.au/about-pain>

Pain is a relatively common experience during life and we are all likely to experience it at one time or another. It is a very complex and subjective experience influenced by various biological, psychological and social factors. Pain is one of

the most common reasons for seeking medical attention and for hospital admission.

Acute pain- Pain which persists for a short time.

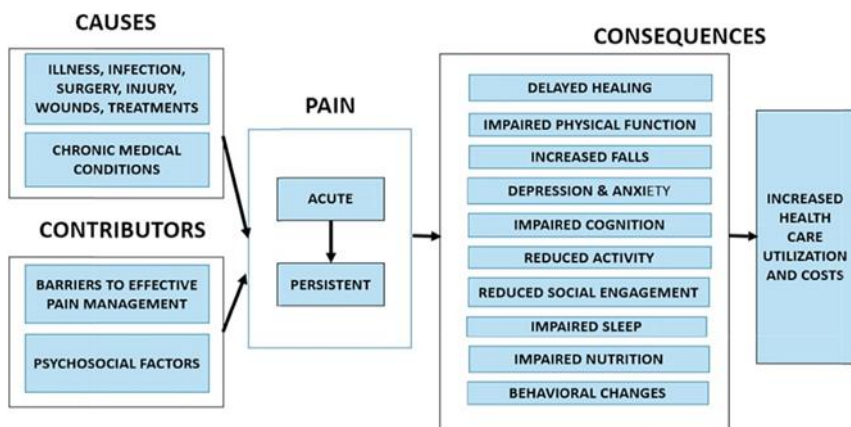
Persistent pain -

Pain which persists for many weeks, months and years.

Pain is highly damaging to the quality of life of the older person, their family, friends and carers, and costly for society as a whole, yet pain is not an inevitable part of ageing.

Pain becomes a more complicated issue for the many older people who are affected by multiple conditions and take a range of medications. Older people in pain tend to limit their activities – resulting in decrease in independence and decrease in mobility. Lack of mobility and activity can further lead to an increased risk of pressure sores, breathlessness and frailty and, hence, further suffering.

Assessment of pain is critical for effective management. However, this depends on older people reporting their pain, this can be problematic as older people can be reluctant to vocalise their experience. Failure to report is also likely to be common among older people with communication difficulties, or conditions such as dementia and Parkinson’s disease. Pain is highly subjective and this, combined with older people’s reluctance to complain of it, means that it is likely to be under-reported.



What can you do as a health professional?

- A: Ask about pain regularly**
- B: Believe the patient’s and/or family’s reports of pain**
- C: Choose appropriate pain approaches and treatment options**
- D: Deliver interventions in a coordinated and timely fashion**
- E: Empower patients and their families**

Practice performing a pain assessment when completing vital signs, “fifth vital sign”. Consider using one of the pain scales in the EMR pain assessment tool. **EMR < AdHoc < Pain Assessment**. Pain scales help ensure better communication between a health professional and a patient so a proper diagnosis and treatment plan can be established.

Further Learning:

- My Health Learning – Pain Assessment: Course No.66247854
- My Health Learning – Acute Pain Management in Adults: Course No. 78572002



Plastic reduction in action

From 1 June 2022 light-weight plastic bags with handles will be banned in NSW. [Under new legislation](#), from 1 June 2022 single-use, light-weight plastic bags with handles are banned. The ban does not apply to:

- barrier bags such as bin liners, human or animal waste bags
- produce bags and deli bags
- patient belonging bags, zip lock bags or specimen collection bags and any packaging for medical items.

NSW Health has a temporary three-month exemption for specific uses of light-weight plastic bags. From 1 June to 31 August 2022 inclusive, for the use of existing excess stock of light weight plastic bags in NSW Health public hospital.

This exemption is for non-retail settings and only for the following purposes:

- sanitising fruit and vegetables in hospital food services
- transporting medications to and from in-house patient dispensaries (this exemption does not include light-weight plastic bags provided by a retailer to a consumer used to transport medical items from the retailer)
- transporting blood between blood bank facilities and hospitals
- transporting medical items between wards or departments.

All new orders must meet legislative requirements.

Additional items will be banned from 1 November 2022

From 1 November 2022 the ban covers a range of items relating to food service including single-use plastic straws (except where medically required), stirrers, cutlery, plates and bowls and all expanded

polystyrene food ware.

New products for use under all NSW Health state contracts will be costed, and trialled if required, before customer updates are issued through procurement channels for ordering.

More information is available on the Department of Planning and Environment's website.



Policy Watch — PDs available on MOH internet

The following documents have been published on the NSW Ministry of Health internet site <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies>. These documents are official NSW Health policy. Compliance with Policy Directives is **mandatory**.

Title	Document Number	Date Issued
NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association Annual Conference and Professional Day 2022	IB2022_013	20/05/2022
Waiting for What Delays in the Patient Flow Portal	IB2022_014	23/05/2022
Maternity and Neonatal Service Capability	GL2022_002	20/05/2022
Chaplains' Subsidy	IB2022_016	24/05/2022
NSW Eating Disorders Toolkit	IB2022_015	24/05/2022
Allied Health Data Set Extension	IB2022_012	18/05/2022
National Health and Medical Research Council Research Staff Salary Rates	IB2022_011	17/05/2022
State-wide Protocol for the Supply or Administration of COVID-19 Vaccine	PD2022_015	12/05/2022
Patients with Inherited Bleeding Disorders in Hospitals without a Haemophilia Treatment Centre	PD2022_013	28/04/2022
Housing and Mental Health Agreement 2022	IB2022_010	03/05/2022
Reporting and Submission Requirements for NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Dataset	PD2022_014	03/05/2022