



NORTHERN NETWORK NEWS

FEB/MAR 2022

BIGGER AND BETTER FOR MODBURY'S NEW UNIT

Modbury Hospital's new Short Stay General Medical Unit (SSGMU) has opened its doors to its very first patients, marking another major milestone in Modbury Hospital's redevelopment.

Staff were elated to finally move into the much larger space offering 22 individual private rooms with ensuites, a four-bed bay, and a plethora of new state-of-the-art equipment.

Nurse Unit Manager, Callum McCabe (pictured below, second from right) has relished in the opportunity to get the new facility patient-ready alongside his capable team who were all excited to settle into their new surroundings.

"On first impression, the size of the facility is impressive. It has high ceilings, large corridors, and large rooms allowing plenty of space for patients and staff," said Callum.

"On the practical side, the patient rooms are nice and big with good access and great facilities to support us mobilise and monitor patients. There is also an abundance of storage which means things can be tucked away, organised and easily cleaned."

"The new SSGMU was purposefully designed to be located adjacent to the Extended Emergency Care Unit and the Emergency Department to allow all three clinical areas to work seamlessly together," said Divisional Director Medicine, Dr Tony Elias.

"The new facility aims to reduce the time patients spend in the Emergency Department and negate the need for transfers to the Lyell McEwin Hospital, ensuring our community can get the treatment they need, closer to home."

WORKING IN ED WITH JESS

Jess is a Registered Nurse (RN) who has been working in the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network's (NALHN) Emergency Department (ED) at Lyell McEwin Hospital for four years.



According to Jess, working in an ED department was a long-term plan of hers following a student placement as part of her undergraduate degree.

"I really loved my placement in ED and knew it was a career path I was going to pursue," she said.

Four years after her graduation and having gained experience working across different areas of nursing, she applied for a role in Lyell McEwin Hospital's ED, and she hasn't looked back since.

"I love the variety of working in ED, every day is different. We support a diverse range of people, who present with different health conditions. This creates new challenges every day which requires innovative and critical thinking to solve. Something I really enjoy."

To read the full article about Jess, visit sahealth.sa.gov.au/nalhnnews



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Hi everyone and welcome to the very first edition of Northern Network News for 2022! What a start to the year it has been, as we have all learnt to adapt to another new phase of COVID normal. It has been an extremely challenging time for our staff and our community, but as

always, we have shown that we are a resilient and resourceful bunch who can adapt and adjust as needed.

Despite the need to keep visitors at a minimum due to COVID-19, our staff have all done a tremendous job in supporting our patients and their families to stay connected. I am incredibly grateful for the care and compassion they display to all our consumers and their unwavering commitment to patient wellbeing.

We continue to be overwhelmed by the support shown by our consumers and our community, receiving messages of thanks from many patients and their loved ones. We have also received some very kind and generous donations from many local businesses, including Jurlique (as pictured), Bunnings at Modbury/Munno Para/Parafield, Nippys, McDonalds Modbury, and a variety of local Woolworths and Coles stores.



Maree delivering gifts kindly donated by Jurlique and Bunnings Modbury to our ED team at Modbury Hospital.

This edition of Northern Network News is full of stories highlighting our exceptional people and the incredible work they do. You will also learn more about our newly launched Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan, and how Allied Health's Children's and Families' Service has been adapting its model of care.

Just like me, I hope it leaves you feeling #NALHNProud.

Maree Geraghty, CEO, NALHN

HERDING RATS

Early in the New Year, Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) secured its first Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) supplies. These tests would provide a quick result for staff, reassuring them they were COVID-19 free or an instant warning that they should stay away and undergo a PCR test.

Given some uncertainty about supply and the decision that staff would test themselves before each second shift, the RAT kits would require careful distribution.

As they had done since 1959, when they made curtains and bedspreads and repaired thousands of hospital items, the Lyell McEwin Volunteer Association (LMVA) answered the call.



LMVA volunteers (from left) Marlene, Diane, Patricia, Serena packing RATs in the Modbury Hospital basement.

Their commitment to NALHN saw many volunteers doing multiple RAT packing shifts, in addition to their existing roles. Committed long-term coordinators have worked with an average of 16 volunteers a day, patiently unpacking large boxes of kits, then sorting components into paper bags containing three kits, before repacking into larger boxes for delivery around the Network. It is a repetitive task, but one vital to the ongoing health of NALHN patients and staff.

Andrew McGill, NALHN's Director of Nursing (Operations) and COVID-19 Program Lead, said that the LMVA offered their assistance without hesitancy.

"Their only question was 'how can we help?'" said Andrew.

"Over the first weekend, the volunteers separated and repackaged 32,000 kits, and to date, the LMVA has been operating over three sites to prepare RAT packs for staff, volunteering on average five to seven hours per day (seven days per week)."

"NALHN is extremely fortunate to have a partner that goes to such extraordinary lengths to assist and help our staff, patients, and community every day – rain, hail, or pandemic! And we thank them for their brilliant efforts."

RECONCILIATION THROUGH ART

Following the launch of Northern Adelaide Local Health Network's (NALHN) [Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan \(RAP\) 2021–2024](#) last month, Elizabeth Close, a Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara woman from the APY Lands in Central Australia shares how she came to develop the artwork (as pictured) for NALHN's Stretch RAP and the significance of the project for her.

Elizabeth who is now based in Adelaide, is no stranger to healthcare. She spent ten years working as a registered nurse in the Emergency Department at Noarlunga Hospital.



“A lot of my practice is about health and wellbeing,” said Elizabeth. “Looking at these subjects through the lens of an Aboriginal person, for whom Country and connection to Country and culture and community are all intrinsically linked with your health and wellbeing.”

Elizabeth was tasked with bringing to life NALHN's values and our Stretch RAP's vision, which she brought a unique perspective to the project as an Aboriginal woman and former registered nurse.

The monochromatic line work was inspired by growth rings of trees. “It is a symbol of growth and change, building and moving forward. It speaks to physical, spiritual and emotional growth, and creating a better understanding of how we need to work together if we are going to achieve health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.”

According to Elizabeth it was an honour to work on this project. “You can tell that NALHN is genuine about meaningfully embedding this process in every facet of healthcare delivery.”

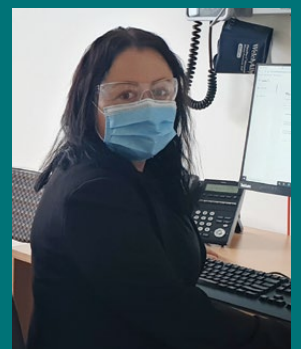
A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Right across Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN), many of our services have been going online to meet the challenges of COVID restrictions, like the Allied Health team from NALHN's Children's and Families' Service.

“We have quickly learned that telehealth consults provide a new and complementary medium for engaging with families, whereby barriers like travel costs, time, caring for siblings, and preparing children for appointments who may have sensory differences, are reduced,” said Arryn Mills, Senior Manager for NALHN's Children's and Families' Service.

Face-to-face consults give therapists the opportunity to trial new strategies and activities, while telehealth consults allow them to review progress and address any challenges with parents/carers in between visits.

NALHN Speech Pathologist, Shannon Clift (pictured right) who works out of NALHN's GP Plus Super Clinic at Gilles Plains acknowledges that relying on digital services and technology has had its challenges.



“Sometimes there are connectivity issues, and often children are not as engaged as they would be during a face-to-face visit, but we are all getting better at overcoming these issues,” said Shannon.

“In fact, because we see children and their families in their own environments and in their own homes, we get some very helpful insights and see behaviours that we might not see in the clinic.”

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Exceptional people build exceptional organisations. We are fortunate that some very capable people are driving the quest for continuous improvement at Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN).

On the recent Australia Day Honours list were two NALHN specialists recognised for their contributions to the medical profession.

Professor Gregory Crawford was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to palliative care and tertiary education.

Professor Cherrie Galletly received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to medicine as a psychiatrist.

Both have long resumés detailing many years of outstanding achievement in their professions, yet when we spoke with them, each was quick to mention their colleagues.

NALHN CEO Maree Geraghty said that recognition of these outstanding practitioners shines a brighter light on the great work that is undertaken in the network.

“We heartily congratulate Greg and Cherrie on their well-deserved honours. Their contributions to NALHN and to the communities we serve have been enormous,” said Maree.

“They, and those they work alongside, are providing outstanding services day after day, improving the lives of patients and their families, and we at NALHN are very proud of them.”



Greg Crawford AM



Cherrie Galletly OAM

To read more stories, visit our website
sahealth.sa.gov.au/nalhnnews

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Northern Adelaide Local Health Networkrlu tampintheta Kurna miyurna yaiya yarta-mathanya Kurna yartarna-arra ngadlu warpulayintheta. Ngadlu tampintheta purkarna pukinangku, yalaka, tarrkarritya. Ngadlu tampintheta yaiya mathanya kuma parnaku tuwila yartangka.

The Northern Adelaide Local Health Network acknowledges the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we proudly deliver health and wellbeing services. We honour Kurna Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise Aboriginal cultural authority, and the ongoing spiritual connection the Kurna people have to country.

Front page header image: L-R, NALHN Speech Pathologist Shannon Clift and Administration Officer Tricia Judd-Ireland take pride in supporting families at NALHN's GP Plus Super Clinic, Gilles Plains.

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HAS A STORY.
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Communications and Engagement Unit

Telephone: (08) 8161 2000

Email: Health.northerncommunication@sa.gov.au



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Northern Adelaide
Local Health Network

 @northernadelaidehealth