



NORTHERN NETWORK NEWS

NOV/DEC 2022



MISSION TO THRIVE IN THE NORTH

NALHN's belief in the power of partnerships and its passion for assisting our young people to reach their full potential are the drivers behind a new alliance to help our young people.

Adelaide's north is home to 17 per cent of South Australia's people aged 17 years and younger. About half of the children in SA who are considered developmentally vulnerable live there. Fifty to seventy per cent of dealings with child protection agencies comes from Australia's most socioeconomic disadvantaged areas, of which Adelaide's north is one.

We've all heard the old adage that *prevention is better than the cure*. NALHN knows it is very true in public health, but believes it is also applicable to areas of social policy, where well-timed and well-targeted assistance can prevent a lot of trouble down the road.

In March this year, NALHN's Executive Director of Strategy and Innovation, Sinéad O'Brien, arranged initial discussions with 17 interagency partners. They identified that mapping and connecting services and information and bringing about better collaboration between government agencies were keystones of any new approach. Importantly, Helen Connolly, Commissioner for Children and Young People, agreed to chair a future Alliance.

In June, attendees at a scoping workshop, including the NALHN Governing Board, agreed on a vision that all children, from birth to preschool, living in the North get the support and intervention they need, at the time they need it, so that they can reach their full potential.



To accomplish this, the approach will not be limited to the child and will consider a wider network of family and caregivers to ensure the child can flourish. The focus of the project includes children from birth to preschool age, their families or caregivers.

The Children in the North Provocation Workshop, held in late October, featured expert speakers and panellists. It was attended by more than a hundred people, with state and local government, non-government and educational agencies committed to improving the health and wellbeing of children and families all represented. It was a morning that challenged everyone to think about new approaches to ensure that we give our most vulnerable people access to the help they need.

"I look forward to working with our government and non-government colleagues so we can really make a difference to how we provide support and services to our children in the North," says Sinéad.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Hi everyone, welcome to the final full edition of *Northern Network News (NNN)* for 2022 (and finally, some warmer weather). I cannot believe that the festive season is here!

With one of the fastest growing regions in metropolitan SA, Northern Adelaide Local

Health Network (NALHN) is committed to being an innovative and efficient health service that offers the best in care for our community. This edition is all about our pursuit for quality, safety and sustainability; of our resources, our services, and most of all, our amazing staff.

We are currently undertaking a major 'master planning' project in collaboration with the Department of Health and Wellbeing and the Destravis Group, to identify the best future need and use of our physical footprint and infrastructure at our hospital and community sites. When completed in December, it will provide a clear plan for NALHN's infrastructure needs going forward.

To complement our infrastructure plans, internally, we are continuing to grow our people through new opportunities and training, rewarding and recognising outstanding work, and by employing more skilled and passionate staff. Very soon we will be launching a recruitment campaign for NALHN, to encourage more nurses and health professionals to come join us, from both near and far. Keep reading for more on this.

We are also embarking on the creation of an exciting Children's Alliance, to better support our children in the North. This is because we know that what happens to children in their first 1,000 days of life, shapes the way their brains, bodies and emotions develop. Recently, we held a workshop which attracted more than 120 people from health, government, welfare, children's services, and other sectors from across SA, all committed to bringing about meaningful change to help our children thrive. You can read more about this in our cover story.

As the largest health service in northern Adelaide, I am incredibly #NALHNproud of the way we continue to grow and evolve our services to meet the diverse needs of our community, with sustainability at our core and making the best use of the resources we have.

**Maree Geraghty, CEO,
Northern Adelaide Local Health Network**

CALL THE MIDWIVES

In late 1993, midwife Linda Campbell (pictured below) was already a twenty-five-year veteran at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. She was there in the Birth Centre when it opened that year and is still there.

"Yes, excluding a couple of short absences to have children, I've been working at the Lyell McEwin for 55 years," says Linda, Unit Manager for the Birth Centre, Patient Education and Family Planning.

"The Birth Centre presents women whose pregnancies are low risk with a great model of care. Our team gets to know the women during their antenatal period, and by the time they are ready to give birth, they are familiar with us. We follow up with these new Mums after they leave us and check on the progress of their young ones. We've had a good number of women who have had several babies with us, so the Birth Centre seems to be an overwhelmingly positive experience, says Linda.

"We are unique because we've continued with the same model of care since we opened."

About 16,000 babies have been delivered in the birth centre, representing about one in every six births at the Hospital.



"The Hospital is much bigger today than it was when I started here. However, I believe we have maintained much of the friendliness and family atmosphere of years past. That is certainly true in the Birth Centre, where we love what we do," says Linda.

Congratulations to Linda and the whole team at Lyell McEwin's Birth Centre on 30 wonderful years.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our consumers, their families and carers for their support throughout the year, and acknowledge the exceptional contribution of our skilled and talented staff, especially those who are working through the holiday period to maintain our services to the community.

Wishing you all a safe and merry Christmas.





Pictured: Doctors Jai (left) and Nishadi, two highly skilled international medical graduates who are taking up the opportunity to advance their medical careers at NALHN.

NEW PROGRAM BRINGS MORE DOCTORS TO OUR NETWORK

A new program which began at NALHN earlier this year is helping to attract and retain high-performing international medical graduates to our hospitals.

Traditionally, medical graduates seeking general registration in Australia were required to successfully complete a written examination, however Workplace-Based Assessment (WBA) Programs like the one recently launched at NALHN, offer an alternative pathway which involves the successful completion of a twelve-month period of supervised practice.

NALHN is South Australia's first metropolitan Local Health Network to run the WBA Program, which until now, has only been offered in Mount Gambier and interstate. A total of twelve international medical graduates will undertake the program each year at NALHN, with nine already starting since the Program began in April.

The Program aims to attract more junior doctors to both Lyell McEwin and Modbury hospitals and stop them from heading interstate, but it also means highly skilled graduates can stay on at NALHN once they complete the Program, to fill specialist vacancies and further strengthen our medical workforce.

Jai has been at NALHN since 2019 and is currently working as a Medical Service Resident. He was previously contemplating a move to an interstate WBA accredited hospital, but the launch of the program at NALHN meant he could stay on to achieve his general registration and further his career with specialist training, all at NALHN.

Nishadi leapt at the opportunity to join our WBA Program after originally being offered a placement in Tasmania, which would have meant a big move for her and her young family.

According to NALHN's WBA Program Director Dr Hiren Chotaliya, this is a great outcome for both NALHN and our community.

"It's vitally important we attract and retain highly skilled medical staff," says Dr Chotaliya.

"We put a lot of work into recruiting and training our junior doctors, and this program will help us keep them here to progress their skills and practice, which ultimately leads to better quality patient care."

A SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE



Pictured: Colleen from People & Culture shares information about NALHN to Kristy and Kara (L-R) at the Salisbry Workforce Roadshow held at Twelve25 Youth Centre.

Our network has seen the recent opening of a new Palliative Care Unit and Short Stay General Medical Unit at Modbury Hospital, as well as an Emergency Department redevelopment and a new Mental Health Short Stay Unit at the Lyell McEwin Hospital – investment which is in line with the future demand.

“Hand-in-hand with the investment in bricks and mortar, we need to ensure we continue to recruit and develop the highest standard of staff and continue to build sustainability across our workforce – and we are always looking for innovative ways to achieve this,” says NALHN’s Executive Director People and Culture Kym Shreeve.

A recent example is the Health, Disability and Aged Care Workforce Roadshow sessions at community venues in Tea Tree Gully, Gawler, Salisbry, Fitzroy and Osborne.

“The events attracted jobseekers and students who were able to talk directly with partnership health service employers from government, NGOs and the private sector,” says Director of the Northern Adelaide Health and Wellbeing Partnership Melanie Schmitzke.

Another innovation is a planned mentoring and coaching program called Working with Wisdom (WwW) and Transition to Professional Practice Support (TPPS).

“We are planning to help support the development of our growing team by tapping into the skills and knowledge of experienced nurses and midwives,” says Executive Director Nursing & Midwifery Adj. Associate Professor Vanessa Owen.

The proposed model will recruit experienced staff to support, mentor and educate our current staff (WwW) and our incoming generation of graduates (TPPS), allowing the knowledge and skills of experienced nurses and midwives to inform and support our early career staff.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Kurna

Northern Adelaide Local Health Network kurlu tampinthe Kurna miyurna yaiya yarta-mathanya Kurna yartarna-arra ngadlu warpulayinthe. Ngadlu tampinthe purkarna pukinangu, yalaka, tarrkaritya. Ngadlu tampinthe yaiya mathanya kuma parnaku tuwila yartangka.

English

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: Pictured: Dr Julie Tucker, WINNER at this year’s South Australian Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards for Excellence in Research and Knowledge Translation.

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**EVERYONE
HAS A STORY.
MATTERS.
CONTRIBUTES.
GROWS.**

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