



NORTHERN NETWORK NEWS

JUL/AUG 2022

A VISION BECOMES REALITY

In May this year, 18 organisations representing government agencies, local councils, universities, research institutions, private investors and non-government health care providers signed a Memorandum of Understanding as partners committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our northern suburb's community.

“With the Lyell McEwin Hospital one of the State's three tertiary hospitals, plans for further developing a health precinct surrounding the hospital have been under consideration for some time,” said Melanie Schmidtke, recently appointed as Director of the Northern Adelaide Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

Over the last 12 months those plans have evolved to consider not just the Playford Health Precinct development, but the broader health and wellbeing needs of the Northern Adelaide region.

“Our stakeholder groups identified there was greater benefit in broadening the vision to encompass not just health related sectors but support industries and other sectors with the potential for growth in the North,” said Melanie.

The vision for Northern Adelaide Health and Wellbeing Partnership is to create a flourishing and vibrant health and wellbeing community, that together can attract and increase research, education, health and wellbeing opportunities, as well as economic benefit through employment and future growth.

“We know the Northern Adelaide region has the fastest growing population in South Australia, so there will continue to be increased demand for health services,” said Melanie.

Successful collaborative models such as the Westmead Innovation District (NSW) have shown the value of partnerships in delivering a



With population growth also comes social, education, training and employment needs, says Melanie Schmidtke. Photographed at Tea Tree Plaza Interchange.

coordinated approach to education and career pathways, particularly in health-related fields.

“The partnership will serve to highlight the Northern Adelaide region as a place to not only do business, but to live, work and play. Working together, we can leverage the collective strengths of the partners to better address health and social needs and create future opportunities for our community,” said Melanie.

“But it's not just health services that need to match a growing community, with population growth also comes social, education, training and employment needs.”

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Hello everyone, welcome to another edition of *Northern Network News*.

As we start a new financial year, I would like to thank all our staff who continue to work so tirelessly, despite the challenges, to deliver high-quality and compassionate care to our community. On 1 July it gave me great pleasure to celebrate with many of them at the NALHN Staff Awards, an annual event which aims to recognise individuals and teams from across all our sites and services.

The event was attended by more than 150 NALHN staff and VIP guests, including NALHN's Governing Board, who like me, spent the night beaming with pride as we celebrated the wonderful work of 27 finalists across ten different categories. For further details and photos from the event make sure you follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

This edition of *Northern Network News* features some fantastic initiatives made possible through forging strong partnerships with our local health providers and organisations, like the Northern Health and Wellbeing Partnership which you can read about on the front cover.

Whether it be improving access to services, building better facilities, or supporting our staff to grow and thrive, NALHN is committed to investing in partnerships and integrating our services to ensure better health and wellbeing outcomes for our local community. We are always stronger when we do things together!

Our commitment to partnering extends to our consumers, who are at the heart of everything we do. Much work has gone into revitalising and developing the way we engage with consumers in recent years, resulting in a well-established Consumer Community who bring with them invaluable skills and experience to share with us.

We are also investing in social media and our website to enable us to engage more freely with our local community, and to promote our high-quality services and many skilled clinicians.

Thanks for staying connected with what makes us #NALHNProud.

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

THE CHANGING FACE OF LYELL MCEWIN HOSPITAL

Lyell McEwin's new Mental Health Short Stay Unit and the first stage of the Emergency Department opened in June.

The new state-of-the-art eight-bed MHSSU provides a purpose-built care environment for mental health patients and gives them around-the-clock and quick access to specialised care after assessment in the Emergency Department.

The MHSSU offers plenty of natural light and features a separate family and dining area with lofty ceilings, three consulting suites, and an open-plan station for staff. At its centre is an open-area courtyard (pictured left).

When completed early next year, the expanded three-level Emergency Department will include 72 treatment spaces, almost doubling its capacity. There will also be additional resuscitation and triage capabilities, and a dedicated paediatric assessment and treatment space.

In addition, the new SA Government will fund the opening of 48 new beds at the Lyell McEwin.

Capacity at Modbury Hospital will also increase, with an SA Government commitment to a new Cancer Centre, more beds at a rebuilt Woodleigh House, plus ongoing funding for another 48 permanent beds in the main hospital.

These redevelopments are critical to meeting increased demand and the future needs of our local population in Adelaide's north and north-east, which are among South Australia's fastest-growing areas.

A bright and airy courtyard is the centrepiece of the new Short Stay Mental Health Unit.



ALLIANCE PUTS COMMUNITY AT THE HEART OF SERVICE DESIGN

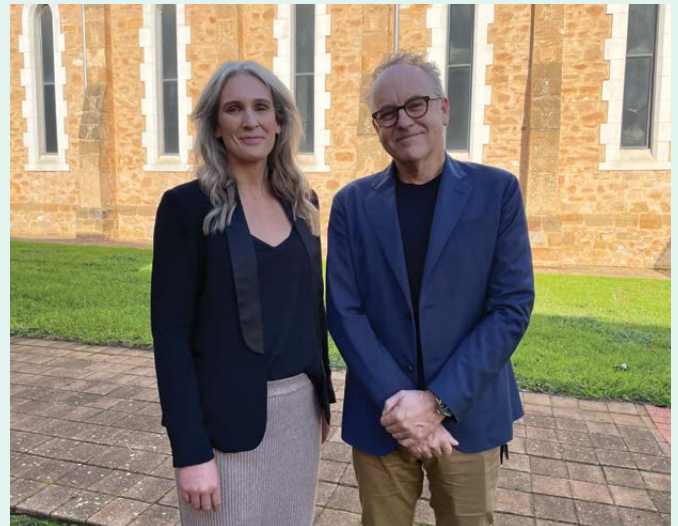
The Northern Adelaide Mental Health Alliance has developed a reputation as a collaborative group that drives integration and advocacy among mental health and community stakeholders in Adelaide's northern suburbs.

"Putting the community at the heart of service innovation, design and planning is the best way to improve the links between stakeholders and service providers and deliver better outcomes for the people seeking those services," said Shaun Sweeney, NALHN's Acting Director of Allied Health and Community, Mental Health Division.

Consulting and collaborating with a wide range of services, and listening to the needs identified by the community, has provided great opportunities for the Northern Alliance to develop and implement new initiatives that are peer led and informed by clinicians, counsellors and those with lived experience.

"For example, we are working with Drug and Alcohol Services SA to embed a dual diagnosis specialist in community mental health services and to train all staff in key screening and brief intervention tools. And we have collaborated with MIND on the CONNECT project to support initiatives such as the South Australian Ambulance co-responder service," said Shaun.

"The development of the multi-agency youth service has resulted in less critical incidents as young people are 'stepped up' and 'stepped down' seamlessly between primary, secondary and tertiary mental health services," said Sonder's Youth Clinical Services Manager Kelly Stewart.



Kelly and Shaun at St John's Church in Salisbury where the Alliance's first-ever Safe Haven Café will be located.

"One of the most exciting new projects we're working on is the co-commissioning (between NALHN and Adelaide Primary Health Network) of Adelaide's first Safe Haven Café."

"This is a community-driven model that's about setting up a venue where people seeking mental health support can get together in a comfortable and non-clinical setting and be able to talk with peer practitioners who have their own lived experience of mental health conditions, and/or receive support from a clinician such as a Psychologist, Nurse or Social Worker."

Once the program commences, the hours will be from 5pm to 9pm – a time when people seeking support are unable to get to conventional support services – and would otherwise most often present to an Emergency Department (ED).

NEW DIABETES TECHNOLOGY OFFERS BETTER CARE

Lauren was just nine years old when she was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. While overwhelming at the time, Lauren has learnt to manage her diabetes over the years, and with the advancement of new technologies she will have more control over her diabetes than ever before.

She recently attended Northern Adelaide Local Health Network's (NALHN) Diabetes Education Centre to receive an insulin pump upgrade and new Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) device which will offer automated insulin dosing, among many other benefits. Her new equipment is also Bluetooth enabled allowing her to monitor her glucose levels on the go, at any time, and on any device.

"I have been patiently waiting to receive this upgrade. I'm most looking forward to using my phone to monitor my glucose levels during the day, instead of always checking my pump." said Lauren

According to NALHN's Head of Diabetes and Endocrine Services, Dr Anthony Zimmermann, the team is now gearing up for a very busy few months ahead, as a new cohort of consumers become eligible for subsidised diabetes technologies which includes CGM devices under the National Diabetes Support Scheme.

As of 1 July, every Australian with Type 1 diabetes has access to a potentially life-saving Government funded device, which can cost up to \$5,000 per year without the subsidy.



Lauren gets up to speed on how to use her new insulin pump and CGM device.

SURGICAL CARE EXTENDS TO PORT PIRIE



Dr Nigel Da Silva, in NALHN's surgical consultation room at Port Pirie.

Dr Nigel Da Silva, Colorectal and General Surgeon is one of four surgical consultants at NALHN supporting a partnership with the York and Northern Local Health Network (YNLHN) to provide a surgical outreach service at the Port Pirie Regional Health Service.

The team provides face-to-face consultations and surgical lists once a week on a rotating basis, with

the support of a surgical registrar. According to Dr Da Silva, the benefits of the partnership are immense.

“We have been able to provide timely care to people in their own community, eliminating the need to travel to the Lyell McEwin Hospital for their outpatient appointment and peri-operative care,” he said.

Surgical consultants can escalate patients who require specialised surgical care to the Lyell McEwin Hospital, ensuring they receive continuity of care from the moment they are admitted to the Port Pirie Regional Health Service, right through to Lyell McEwin Hospital. Where possible they will attend follow-up appointments at Port Pirie Regional Health Service.

With high demand for surgical services in the Port Pirie region, Dr Viney Joshi, YNLHN Executive Director Medical Services, was keen to see the partnership with NALHN established so the local community can receive the treatment they need, closer to home.

“Not only have we seen greater outcomes for our community, but the partnership also provides junior doctors with a taste of regional hospitals and further increases their operative and clinical exposure,” said Dr Joshi.

Dr Xuanyu ‘Swen’ Zhou, General Surgery Registrar supports NALHN’s surgical consultants at the clinic. Dr Zhou works alongside Dr Greg Otto, Head of Unit - General Surgery, Lyell McEwin Hospital, Dr Izhar Haque, Hepatobiliary and General Surgeon, Dr Anand ‘Arnie’ Nathan, Breast, Endocrine and General Surgeon, and Dr Da Silva.

Outpatient consultations occur every Thursday, and surgeries are performed each Wednesday. Patients can speak with their local General Practitioner to organise a referral as a public or private patient.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Kurna

Northern Adelaide Local Health Network
Kurna miyurna yaiya yarta-mathanya
Kurna yartarna-arra ngadlu
warpulayinhi. Ngadlu tampinhi
purkarna pukinangku, yalaka,
tarrkaritya. Ngadlu tampinhi
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: CEO Maree Geraghty with the winner of this year's Exceptional People Award, Dr Amy Hercus

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

Communications and Engagement Unit

Telephone: (08) 8161 2000

Email: Health.northerncommunication@sa.gov.au

  @northernadelaidehealth



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