



NORTHERN NETWORK NEWS

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NEW STUDY BRINGS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO SA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) has joined an exciting new clinical trial that will investigate the merits of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) within Emergency Departments (EDs) to support the assessment and management of patients with suspected cardiac chest pain.

Led by Professor Derek Chew from Flinders University, the study will enrol a total of 9,600 participants across 12 South Australian metropolitan and rural hospitals, including Lyell McEwin and Modbury Hospitals.

Suspected cardiac chest pain is the second most common reason for ED presentations nationally every year* and accounts for approximately ten per cent of all ED presentations at NALHN.

This clinical trial aims to investigate whether patient outcomes can be improved (through a reduction in deaths, subsequent heart attacks, and re-admissions) by using AI-based decision support embedded within routine clinical assessment. The study will also evaluate the cost-effectiveness of implementing AI-based decision support within EDs as an ongoing clinical support tool.

ED Consultant, Dr Muhammad Abid, who is based at Modbury Hospital and currently undertaking a fellowship with the American Board of AI in Medicine, will be leading this collaborative research project across NALHN.

“Artificial Intelligence in health is growing in momentum globally,” said Dr Abid.

“With the introduction of patient administration and electronic medical records, there is an enormous volume of data in our health systems. AI enables us to use this health data in ways to improve health outcomes for our consumers, which is incredibly exciting.”



ED Consultant, Dr Muhammad Abid who is leading this collaborative AI research project across NALHN.

Funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (Australian Government), this clinical trial is set to commence in the next four months, with all participants to be followed up for a period of 12 months following their initial ED presentation.

NALHN’s Divisional Director Critical Care, Dr Penny Conor is looking forward to seeing the results of this important study.

“We are very proud to be participating in this innovative research study, the first of its kind in Australia,” said Dr Conor.

“While I don’t think AI can ever replace clinicians, its use represents a significant opportunity to support our clinical decision-making and enable us to consistently deliver high-quality evidence-based care in a standardised way.”

**aihw.gov.au/reports-data/myhospitals/sectors/emergency-department-care*

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Hi everyone and welcome to this spring edition of Northern Network News, which features the many ways we are embracing new technologies and digital initiatives across our network, that will ensure our services continue to meet the needs of our growing community into the future.

The digital health landscape is changing fast, providing both exciting opportunities and challenges for our health services as we learn to adapt to new ways of working. I am proud to say that we are embracing digital technology, by taking the lead on several state-first initiatives, like Virtual Inhome Virtual Assist (VIVA) which you can read about on the front cover.

To ensure we have the right foundation as we progress on our digitally smart journey, we are rolling out Sunrise – our new patient administration and electronic medical record system that will better connect NALHN and deliver a multitude of benefits to staff and consumers. Special thanks to all staff for their exceptional commitment over recent months, to undertake training to support the implementation of this vital project, which is fundamental to our future success and sustainability.

Internally, we continue to foster the importance of innovation and continuous improvement through our TEAM North huddles across all levels of the organisation. TEAM North provides a platform for us to build on our culture of innovation, escalate issues and find solutions through working together. Innovation will also be the theme of our next leadership forum, where will be joined by Andrew Nunn, the South Australian Chief Entrepreneur.

When I reflect on the many futuristic inventions that featured in *The Jetsons* (set in 2062), like smart watches and robotic cleaners, I am reminded that the future is coming, and sooner than we think. All the projects and innovations you will read about in this edition began with an idea or concept, and an undeniable passion for innovation and improving health outcomes for our community.

This should make us all #NALHNProud.

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

RECOVERY CAN LEAD THROUGH THE HOME

Bowel cancer is Australia's second deadliest cancer, with 300 Australians diagnosed with this cancer each week. Yet if discovered early, bowel cancer is treatable.

At the Lyell McEwin Hospital, Bowel Cancer Nurse Consultants – Kelly and Margie – are assisting patients navigate this journey with the introduction of Telehealth Virtual Clinics, designed to follow up patients after they've had surgery to remove their bowel cancer.

"The virtual clinic has been particularly beneficial for those patients living in rural and regional areas. With Lyell McEwin being a large hospital, we treat many people from the mid-north such as Port Pirie," said Kelly.

"Patients who have undergone surgery for colorectal cancer usually attend follow up appointments for five years following their diagnosis. They can have a minimum of 11 appointments over these five years with tests such as CT scans and blood tests."

"Our clinic enables us to have a virtual discussion with our patients so that we can ask questions designed to measure their progress and improve their follow up. This can reduce trips to the Lyell McEwin Hospital by almost fifty percent."

"We meet patients as close to diagnosis as possible. It's very confronting for them, but we can reassure them that we'll be there through their journey, available at all times to talk with them, answer their questions, organise their post-op appointments, and keep an eye on their recovery," said Margie.

Kelly says without hesitation, however, that prevention is better than cure. "Take the test when you get it in the mail, to allow for early diagnosis," she said.

Pictured: Colorectal and Upper GI Cancer Nurse Consultants, Margie (left) and Kelly.





Pictured in formation: Sarah Burden (front left) with colleagues from the Division of Mental Health, together forming a 'zero'.

TOWARDS ZERO SUICIDE – A NEW HOPE FOR THOSE AT RISK

A new structured approach to tackling suicide will be put into place by Northern Adelaide Local Health Network's (NALHN's) Division of Mental Health in the coming months.

“Toward Zero Suicide (TZS) is an emerging worldwide transformative approach to addressing suicide both in our healthcare services and the broader community,” said Project Lead Northern Community Mental Health, Sarah Burden.

Working alongside existing suicide programs, TZS aims for a shift of mindset from passive acceptance to active prevention using a combination of practice, service delivery, consumer engagement and organisational change activities that together create greater suicide prevention effectiveness.

“We were approached by the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist about implementing the Towards Zero Suicide program earlier this year, and we could immediately see the benefits it would have across our service,” says Acting Director Allied Health and Community Mental Health Directorate, Shaun Sweeney.

“A suicide event has far-reaching effects for all those connected, including family, friends, health care workers and beyond. TZS acknowledges these effects across the community – and provides a framework where that community network

becomes the key to identifying suicide risks early, so preventative strategies and supports can be provided earlier and more effectively,” said Shaun.

“The TZS framework focusses on seven key steps. The first and perhaps most important step is to instill the belief that suicide can be prevented,” said Sarah.

“Building organisational capability is key to the success, as is the development of an individual care pathway that begins with developing a centralised, consistent and systematic identification of suicide risks, and how these are addressed,” she said.

NALHN's Mental Health Services implementation group will undertake training in TZS prior to undertaking a review of what will be required to align our service with the TZS framework.

TZS is a key initiative of the South Australian Mental Health Services Plan 2020–2025. The plan has set a target to reduce suicides within care by 50 per cent by 2025.

If you or someone you know is in crisis and needs help now call triple zero (000).

**You can also call:
Mental Health Triage 131 465, or
Lifeline on 13 11 14**

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION



Some of the team from Rehabilitation In the Home (RITH), pictured from left: Nikki O'Neil, (Senior Manager), Jason Williams (Physiotherapist) and Megan Dundon (Senior Manager).

Northern Adelaide Local Health Network continues to expand to meet the demands of the community it serves.

This expansion will involve opening 96 new general hospital beds at Lyell McEwin and Modbury Hospitals by 2025. Still, we must continue to be innovative in finding new ways of serving care and health needs that are more aptly provided in out-of-hospital settings.

The brown brick building at Smart Road, Modbury, which once housed a Bank SA branch, is now the nerve centre for NALHN's new Virtual In-home Virtual Assist (VIVA) platform. The state's first single out-of-hospital platform capable of managing all aspects of a patient's care journey, enabling patients in the north and northeast to receive integrated multi-disciplinary care at home.

Where once clinicians used multiple systems to monitor their patients at home or in residential aged care, VIVA offers a single integrated platform to monitor and deliver care, linked through the new purpose-built hub adjacent to the Modbury Hospital.

All aspects, from referral, triage, screening, assessment, care planning, and treatment, can be managed through the hub. In addition, the introduction of electronic records saves both paper and time. It allows attending clinicians to have all the up-to-date information required to deliver appropriate care.

As VIVA enables increased care in the home, it will reduce costs without compromising the high standards of care. In addition, it will ease the pressure on hospitals by providing better patient flows through the system.

NALHN is regarded as a strong-performing Local Health Network. It has substantial experience managing complex patients in an out-of-hospital, virtual care setting. Now it has a cutting-edge, next-generation platform to further that capability.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Kurna

Northern Adelaide Local Health Networkkrlu tampinthe Kurna miyurna yaiya yarta-mathanya Kurna yartarna-arra ngadlu warpulayinthe. Ngadlu tampinthe purkarna pukinangku, 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 L-R: Dr Penny Connor and Dr Aman Anand, embracing the benefits of new technology in Lyell McEwin Hospital's Emergency Department.

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

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