

CE Report



Health
Northern Sydney
Local Health District

**Chief Executive's Report to the NSLHD Board,
the Finance, Risk & Performance Committee,
and the Board, Audit & Risk Committee
October 2021**



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NSLHD PERFORMANCE

NSLHD remains at Performance Level 0 – ‘No Performance Issues’ In accordance with the NSW Health Performance Framework. This is the highest Performance Level attainable.

SAFETY AND QUALITY INDICATORS (September 2021)

Safety and Quality	MONTH				YTD			
	T	Target	Actual	Var	T	Target	Actual	Var
SA-BSI ^{1*}		≤ 1.0	0.3	0.7		≤ 1.0	0.9	0.1
ICU CLAB Infection Rate ^{1*}		= 0.0	0.0	0.0		= 0.0	0.2	-0.2
Incorrect Procedures: OT		= 0	0.0	0.0		= 0	0.0	0.0
MH: Readmissions within 28 Days ¹		≤ 13.0	15.8	-2.8		≤ 13.0	15.8	-2.8
MH: APDC Follow Up Within 7 days ¹		≥ 75	86	11.1		≥ 75	86	11.1
Unplanned Hospital Readmissions [#]		6.4	5.1	1.3		6.6	5.6	1

¹Data 2 month delay

[#] Unplanned Hospital Readmissions targets are prior year actual.

SAFETY AND QUALITY

Consumer Participation and Patient Experience (CAPE)

The new NSLHD Consumer Advisor Toolkit 2021-23 has been finalised. The Toolkit was co-designed by NSLHD Consumer Advisors and has been developed to support new and existing Consumer Advisors by providing general information about NSLHD, outlining the responsibilities of Consumer Advisors and associated training and education requirements.

The ‘Partner in my Care’ webpage has been launched on the NSLHD Internet. The webpage contains links and resources to help consumers make informed decisions and ask the right questions about their treatment and care.

A final draft of the NSLHD Partnering with Consumers Framework 2021-26 will be reviewed by the NSLHD Consumer Committee in October. The Framework reaffirms NSLHD’s commitment to consumer engagement and outlines five priorities for action.

Accreditation Assessments

In response to the COVID-19 situation, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) rescheduled the 2021 accreditation assessments for NSLHD as follows:

- March 2022 – Ryde Hospital
- May 2022 – Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) and Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital (HKH)
- August 2022 – Primary and Community Health (PACH).

The reschedule date for Mona Vale Hospital (MVH) is to be confirmed. It is anticipated that trial accreditation assessments for RNSH and HKH will be rescheduled to February 2022.

Assessments of Clinical Trials will be required from 2022. NSLHD is working with the Clinical Excellence Committee (CEC) and ACSQHC to prepare.

Patient Safety and Incident Management

NSLHD has partnered with the Clinical Excellence Commission and other Local Health Districts to develop investigation documents that directly support the management of COVID-19 related outbreaks in healthcare settings that result in reportable incidents.

PATIENT FLOW AND SERVICE ACCESS¹

The 2020 data provided reflects the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on Emergency Department (activity). Data from 2019 has been included for comparative purposes.

Across NSLHD, there were 11,801 presentations to EDs in August 2021, an increase of 2% (197) when compared to August 2020. When compared to August 2019, this demonstrates a decrease of 14% (2,010) ED presentations.

NSLHD achieved 94% for Transfer of care (ToC) in August 2021. Emergency Treatment Performance (ETP) for the month was 65%. Within this, RNSH achieved 56%, HKH achieved 76% and Ryde Hospital achieved 71%.

NSLHD had 112 patients overdue for elective surgery at the end of August 2021, a reflection of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and Ministry directive to temporarily suspend all non-urgent elective surgery.

Emergency Department (ED) Presentations

ED presentations to NSLHD for August 2021 increased by 197 patients overall when compared to August 2020. ED presentations to NSLHD for August 2021 decreased by 2,101 patients when compared to August 2019.

There were 6,070 ED presentations to RNSH in August 2021. This is a decrease of 5.8% (377 patients) when compared to August 2020, and a decrease of 21% (1,637 patients) when compared to August 2019.

There were 3,341 ED presentations to HKH in August 2021. This is an increase of 8% (247 patients) when compared to August 2020, and a decrease of 9% (332 patients) when compared to August 2019.

There were 2,390 ED presentations to Ryde Hospital in August 2021. This is an increase of 16% (327 patients) when compared to August 2020, and a decrease of 1.6% (41 patients) when compared to August 2019.

Emergency Treatment Performance (ETP)

Overall ETP for NSLHD was 65% in August 2021 against the target of 81%. This demonstrates a decrease of 3% when compared to August 2020 (68%). This also demonstrates a decrease of 1% when compared to August 2019 (66%).

ETP at RNSH was 57% for August 2021, a decrease of 2% from August 2020 (59%). This was also a decrease of 1% when compared to August 2019 (58%).

ETP at HKH was 76% for August 2021, a decrease of 4% from August 2020 (80%). This was also an increase of 3% when compared to August 2019 (73%).

ETP at Ryde Hospital was 71% for August 2021, a decrease of 9% from August 2020 (80%). This was also a decrease of 11% when compared to August 2019 (80%).

¹ This data is for RNSH, HKH and Ryde Hospital. Northern Beaches Hospital (NBH) data is contained within a separate section.

Transfer of Care (ToC)

Overall ToC for NSLHD was 94% in August 2021 against the target of 90%.

ToC at RNSH was 89% for August 2021, this is alongside a 5% decrease in ambulance arrivals (82 ambulances) when compared to August 2020, and a 14.4% decrease in ambulance arrivals (253 ambulances) when compared to August 2019.

ToC at HKH was 92% for August 2021, this is alongside an 8% increase in ambulance arrivals (55 ambulances) when compared to August 2020, and a 3% decrease in ambulance arrivals (24 ambulances) when compared to August 2019.

ToC at Ryde Hospital was 96% for August 2021, this is alongside a 21% increase in ambulance arrivals (114 ambulances) when compared to August 2020, and an 8% increase in ambulance arrivals (52 ambulances) when compared to August 2019.

ED Triage

NSLHD met the target for Triage Category 1 in August 2021. Within this, all hospitals achieved 100%.

NSLHD achieved 77% for Triage Category 2 against the target of 95%. Within this, RNSH recorded 71%, HKH recorded 87% and Ryde Hospital recorded 84%.

NSLHD achieved 81% for Triage Category 3 against the target of 85%. Within this, RNSH recorded 76%, HKH recorded 82% and Ryde Hospital recorded 87%.

NSLHD achieved 83% for Triage Category 4 against the target of 70%. Within this, all hospitals met the target.

NSLHD achieved 95% for Triage Category 5 against the target of 70%. Within this, all hospitals met the target.

Elective Surgery Access Performance (ESAP)

At the end of August 2021, there were 112 patients overdue for elective surgery reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and NSW Health directive to temporarily suspend all non-urgent elective surgery activity.

ESAP for Category 1 performance was 100%. Category 2 performance was 92% against the target of 97%, and Category 3 performance was 92% against the target of 97%.

Average Length of Stay (ALOS)

The ALOS (rolling 12 months) for admitted patients at RNSH for August 2021 was 5.19 days. This is above the target of 4.93 days.

The ALOS (rolling 12 months) for patients at HKH for August 2021 was 3.84 days. This has been consistently below the target of 3.94 days for over 12 months.

The ALOS (rolling 12 months) for patients at Ryde Hospital for August 2021 was 4.70 days. This is above the target of 3.69 days.

NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL REPORT

ED Presentations

There were 5,538 presentations to NBH for August 2021 (excluding COVID-19 Testing Clinic presentations). This is an increase of 4% when compared to July 2021 (5,342 presentations).

Transfer of Care (ToC)

NBH continues to perform strongly against ToC targets, achieving 99.4% in August 2021.

Emergency Treatment Performance (ETP)²

Overall ETP at NBH was 74% for August 2021, an increase of 6.8% from July 2021 (80.8%).

Admitted ETP at NBH was 47% in August 2021, an increase of 5.8% from July 2021 (41%).

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION

Telehealth

Outpatient clinics continue to increase their use of telehealth for both individual consultations and group programs. There were 3,436 telehealth consultations in August 2021, a 38% increase from August 2020. Over 1,000 NSLHD clinicians are now connected to the myVirtualCare and Pexip telehealth platforms.

A Patient Experience Survey was conducted between July and September 2021, aimed at assessing patient satisfaction of using telehealth services in NSLHD. It was reported that 95% of patients rated their experience as 'very good' or 'good', and 76% of patients said that compared to an in-person appointment, telehealth was 'about the same or better'.

The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) launched the Stay Connected Program in September 2021. The Program supports patients to stay connected to families and carers for their social and emotional wellbeing. The rollout of the program has been successful across NSLHD, particularly in Intensive Care Units and COVID-19 Wards.

Remote Patient Monitoring

Remote Patient Monitoring is virtual care technology that uses mobile devices to monitor patient health outside of a hospital setting. The technology has a number of patient benefits including early detection of worsening clinical status and extended access to timely specialist care for vulnerable patients. A pathway has been developed to reduce readmissions for heart failure, by using Remote Patient Monitoring devices and a pilot for use of the technology in the Virtual Hospital is being developed.

INTEGRATED CARE

Collaborative Commissioning

The feasibility phase for the Rapid Care for Frail and Older People Pathway will commence in October for a period of three years. This will involve developing a cost-benefit analysis, sustainability planning, and finalising partnership agreements between NSLHD and the Primary Health Network (PHN).

Specialist Outreach to Primary Care

Geriatrician Outreach continues to be a success with referrals increasing despite the focus on COVID-19 and vaccinations. There has been an increasing trend of GPs looking to use the service to manage their patients as opposed to accessing Specialists through the existing outpatient services.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

General Fund

Overview

In September 2021, NSLHD recorded a Net Cost of Service (NCOS) of \$9.0M (-6%) unfavourable, resulting in \$29.1M (-7%) unfavourable year to date. This includes the incremental costs related to the COVID-19 response.

² From August 2021 onwards, NBH ETP results will no longer include COVID-19 Testing Clinic presentations.

After adjusting for the impact of the COVID-19 response, NSLHD recorded a NCOS of \$9.9M (-2.5%) unfavourable for September 2021 year to date. NSLHD continues to work closely with the MoH to assess the impact of COVID-19 on NSLHD's financial results.

District Finance, and each Hospital and Service are working collaboratively on Efficiency Improvement Plans (EIPs) to ensure overall financial sustainability. NSLHD remains committed to achieving EIPs to the value of \$21M over the next financial year. The financial impact of the District's COVID-19 response is being closely monitored in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Total Expenses

In September 2021, NSLHD recorded \$2.3M (-0.5%) unfavourable year to date for Total Expenses (after adjusting for the impact of the COVID-19 response). Despite overall lower levels of activity, expenses have not decreased and remain at elevated levels.

NSLHD recorded \$39.6M year to date for overall COVID-19 expenses. This includes expenses related to COVID-19 testing clinics, COVID-19 vaccination clinics and ICU incremental and outsourced patient services activities.

NSLHD is forecasting a balanced budget for the Full Year after adjusting for the impact of COVID-19 response.

Revenue

In September 2021, NSLHD recorded \$6.6M (-10%) unfavourable year to date for Total Own Sources Revenue. This is primarily driven by a reduction in private inpatient and outpatient activity due to COVID-19.

District Finance will continue to monitor and assess the impact of COVID-19 on NSLHD's revenue whilst working closely with each Hospital and Service to explore any revenue generating opportunities.

NSLHD is forecasting Revenue to be full year Revenue to be \$15.0M unfavourable.

Other item/s

As at 30 September 2021, the NSLHD operating bank account was \$6.4M.

SERVICE UPDATES

Aboriginal Health Service

Support is being provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and individuals within NSLHD who have tested positive to COVID-19 and are currently in isolation, including the delivery of essential supplies and food hampers.

Allied Health

International Allied Health Professions Day will be celebrated in NSLHD on 14 October 2021. Allied Health Professions Day is a social movement that recognises the contribution that allied health professionals make to patient care, population health and is a chance to celebrate their skills and achievements. There were over 250 individual nominations for the NSLHD Allied Health Recognition. Winners will be announced in October.

Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol (MHDA)

MHDA and NSLHD Corporate Services are working on a number of infrastructure projects including the HKH Palmerston Building Refurbishment and new location for the Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre.

Minor capital works via accessed SHEOC funding is also underway to enable a more agile response to consumers (medically stable) who are COVID-19 positive.

Primary & Community Health (PACH)

The Northern Sydney Home Nursing Service continues to experience high demand for community nursing services to support palliative and end of life care in the home, including caring for people with COVID-19 wishing to remain at home.

Counter Disaster

The Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) has been stood up for the COVID-19 response requiring the District to report on a weekly basis.

The Counter Disaster Unit and Nursing and Midwifery Directorate undertook the decommissioning and repurposing of the Big Red Kidney Bus into a mobile vaccination clinic for Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD). The bus is now operational and is currently onsite at the Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) Mt Druitt to assist in the delivery of a walk-in vaccination clinic for the affected community.

COMMUNICATIONS

Internal Media

- Two NSLHD Newsletters published in September 2021
- Chief Executive (CE) COVID-19 updates were broadcast regularly to staff
- Commencement of new live streaming COVID-19 CE broadcasts to staff on. The first live broadcast with co-hosted with Dr Michelle Mulligan and the second broadcast with Jo Tallon and Dr Bernie Hudson. Supporting the People and Culture Directorate with promoting the People Matter Employee Survey
- Promotion of the *Moments that Matter* wellbeing website for staff

Social Media

- The NSLHD Facebook page has almost 40,000 followers, with one post reaching more than 200,000 individual people.
- The NSLHD Instagram page has 497 followers and reached 2,863 unique accounts in September 2021
- The NSLHD Twitter account has had 40 new followers with 4,000 views
- The NSLHD LinkedIn page has seen more than 150 new followers
- COVID-19 public health messages and community awareness has been made a priority across all social media channels

External Media

- COVID-19 case alert statements provided to local media
- Channel 9 coverage of RNSH ICU managing COVID-19 patients
- Coverage of the start of stage 2A redevelopment at HKH in The Bush Telegraph
- Interview facilitated for RNSH Senior Speech Pathologist with Speak Out publication.
- Channel 9, ABC Radio, Sydney Morning Herald, and North Shore Living published articles with the RNSH Head of Cardiology and Kolling Institute researcher Professor Ravi Bhindi discussing the impacts of COVID-19 on the heart as part of the largest study of its type in Australia.
- North Shore and Peninsula Living published profiles on Professors Carol Pollock and Jim Elliott as part of a feature on leading health professionals in Northern Sydney.
- Distribution of the Kolling Institute community newsletter showcasing research activity across the musculoskeletal, neuroscience and pain, and cardiovascular and renal priority research areas.

Upcoming Events

- NSLHD Allied Health Recognition Awards – 14 October 2021
- NSLHD Annual Public Meeting – November 2021

Projects

- Finalising the Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging video to be shared on NSLHD website, social media pages and with staff
- Progress on production of a NSLHD Cyber Security Video
- Progress on design and production of the 2021 Year in Review
- Production of translated vaccination flyers for Greenway accommodation
- Supported the Clinical Governance Unit with the creation of the NSLHD Partnering with Consumer Framework 2021-26
- Working with key Planetary Health Committee members on the NSLHD Planetary Health Annual Report 2021
- Ryde Hospital redevelopment communications
- Prevention and Response to Violence and Neglect (PARVAN) communications planning
- Manly Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice (AYAH) communications
- COVID-19 support to vaccination hubs and hospitals
- COVID-19 historical book

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

eMR/Clinical Systems Build

Clinical Documentation

- In consultation with clinicians, eMR forms were developed for the Virtual Hospital. This information is extracted alongside data from the Patient Flow Portal and Infection Control Database to populate the COVID-19 dashboards.
- An eMR discharge summary for hospital patients identified as close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case has been developed in-house, which will soon be used across the NSW Health system.
- New COVID-19 Response worklists have been created for the Virtual Hospital to monitor COVID-19 close contacts and their swab results.

Reporting and Extracts

- Existing reports have been modified to capture COVID-19 information.
- Modifications have been made to the eMeds reports.
- Work is currently underway to extract COVID-19 status from the MoH Patient Flow Portal.

ICT Hardware and Infrastructure

ICT continues to support the COVID-19 response through the provision of network infrastructure and hardware, including:

- Virtual Hospital expansions across RNSH
- Public Health Unit COVID-19 Care team expansions
- COVID-19 Vaccination Bus
- 'Clean' ICU at RNSH
- Manly Waves COVID-19 response

Clinical Informatics Projects

eMR Comprehensive Care and Smoking Cessation Projects

Due to COVID-19, the go-live dates for the Comprehensive Care, Risk Screening Assessment and Diagnosis, Documentation Workflow components, and Smoking Cessation Projects have been postponed. This delay will allow the ICT Clinical Informatics Team to focus on and support the local initiatives required by staff.

The Clinical Informatics Unit will continue to align the governance, change management and training activities across all our projects to ensure effective use of resources and clinical engagement.

eMR enhancements

NSLHD continues to partner with eHealth NSW to implement several key ICT projects. Key project updates include:

- Enhancements to IV Fluid Management and Patient Friendly Medication Lists are on track to be delivered by early 2022.
- Drug Burden Index (DBI): The evaluation period for DBI pilot has been extended until the end of October 2021. There are plans to roll out the functionality across all sites with the suggested enhancements.
- Electronic Record for Neonatal Intensive Care (eRIC NICU): The rollout across RNSH NICU has been paused due to COVID-19. Technical meetings with eHealth are continuing, however the recruitment for project resources has been put on hold.

Statewide RIS/PACS Program (Medical Imaging System Replacement/Upgrade)

The application upgrades to the RIS and PACS system to improve functionality and address performance issues have now been completed. Integration issues with the ARIA Radiation Oncology system have also been addressed. The final Project Steering Committee meeting was held 29 September 2021, and the joint NSLHD and Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD) project has been closed. The Steering Committee recommended establishment of a new governance group to oversee ongoing development and support of RIS-PACS.

Manly Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice (AYAH)

In September 2021, a review of meeting room design was undertaken to ensure alignment with eHealth meeting room standards. During October 2021, technical engagements between the ICT networks team and builder will commence to support implementation of site network infrastructure.

Ryde Hospital Redevelopment

ICT has engaged Deloitte to lead a workshop on Virtual Care with Ryde Hospital senior management in October 2021 with a view to support development of models of care and hospital design for the Redevelopment.

Microsoft 365 Digital Workspaces Project

The Microsoft 365 Digital Workspaces Project will build a responsive and adaptive organisation by enhancing the digital experience, improving access to information, and providing the capability to effectively collaborate and communicate within and across NSLHD. This 18 month project is in the planning phase with recruitment of the project team in progress and with the intent to upgrade current digital platforms to Microsoft 365 including:

- NSLHD Intranet Upgrade, SharePoint Team Sites, Video Conferencing infrastructure, collaboration and communication platforms
- Introducing an ICT Digital Services Team to support our staff and clinicians in the transition, improving usability and ensuring sustainability
- Provision of digital solutions, consulting services and delivery

MEDICAL SERVICES

Travel of International Health Professionals

NSW Health has developed a process to facilitate the travel of international health professionals recruited by LHDs and Specialty Networks. The District is currently working with the appointed travel advisor and MoH to secure travel for one NSLHD doctor who has recently been unable to return from Singapore. This service is also available to Nursing and Allied Health.

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Entrance Point COVID-19 Screening

Contactless Visitor Screening Kiosks will be trialled across RNSH. The Kiosks will be able to automatically conduct temperature checking and screening of all persons entering the hospital.

Nursing and Midwifery Workforce

The Nursing and Midwifery Workforce continues to support NSLHD's COVID-19 response. Key initiatives include:

- Supporting the NSLHD Director of Allied Health on advertisements and recruitment of Vaccination Worker and Authorised Health Practitioner positions.
- The ongoing establishment of specialised agency contracts to supply qualified overseas nursing and midwifery staff to the acute facilities.
- Working in conjunction with NSW Health to integrate the new Care Assistant positions to NSLHD facilities.
- Advertising for transitional Enrolled Nurses to attend a modified new graduate programs to assist as additional workforce.
- An expression of interest extended to the GradStart 2022 candidates for short term contracts to assist in new Intensive Care models of care and general ward areas.
- Supporting COVID-19 clinics and vaccination hubs with new and updated rostering templates and advice to ensure visibility and accurate rostering capability is maintained.

Maternity Services

The NSLHD Guideline *Inpatient assessment and management of pregnant women with COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)* has been finalised and approved by the NSLHD COVID-19 Clinical Advisory Group.

Patient Access and Logistic Unit (PALS)

The PALS Unit, in collaboration with the Director Campus Strategy and Counter Disaster Unit are reviewing options to develop a shuttle bus service to assist the Patient Transport Service with transportation of COVID-19 positive patients. The service will be available for patients classified as independently mobile, alert and orientated, and compliant with care.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Exceptional People Awards 2021

The Exceptional People Awards 2021 have been postponed to early 2022. Recognition of staff will still occur in 2021 through a compilation video that will showcase staff and the exceptional work they have undertaken across the District during the current COVID-19 response.

Leadership Development Program

The first Mid-Tier Manager Leadership Development Program cohort is almost complete. The Program is currently underway with the second and third cohort.

Speaking Up For Safety Strategy (SUFS)

Speaking up for Safety training is available across a variety of platforms including face to face learning, an online module, and virtually, including some after-hours options. As at 22 September 2021, 3,715 staff across NSLHD have completed the Speaking Up For Safety training.

Performance and Talent (PAT)

The pilot for the Performance and Talent (PAT) system commenced in July 2021. The NSLHD Policy *Performance Review for Improvement and Development of Employees (PRIDE)* is

currently under review. Completion of this review is planned to coincide with completion of the PAT pilot.

Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging

The NSLHD Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Strategy continues to gain momentum with five employee networks actively meeting to drive progress.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employee Network (Muru Dali Gili Gili) are currently working on recruitment talent pools, career development opportunities and representation across the District on recruitment panels and Committees.

The LGBTQI+ Employee Network is currently focusing on awareness training, celebration of diversity within the community and building allies.

The Employee Resource Network for Disability has a focus on improving capability of recruitment managers in the area of disability inclusion, improved inclusion in the orientation program and the workplace adjustment procedure.

The Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Employee Network is currently considering professional development opportunities for the members, such as English TAFE courses that focus on speaking in plain English, accents and phonetics.

The Women in Leadership Employee Network has been involved in developing the District position statement on zero tolerance, as well as establishing domestic violence competency training for managers.

People Matter Engagement Survey (PMES)

The PMES Annual Survey was conducted between 23 August 2021 and 17 September 2021. The survey was completed by 3,620 staff members, representing 31% of staff. The results are expected to be collated by 8 October 2021 and an action plan will be developed and implemented accordingly. The results will also inform the final version of the NSLHD People Plan.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Workplace Mental Health and Wellbeing Program

An education program focused on workplace mental health and wellbeing is currently being explored, with an aim to better equip managers to promote and manage staff wellbeing.

Moments that Matter

The Moments that Matter wellness platform launched on 9 September 2021, coinciding with 'R U OK? Day'. The platform includes helpful tools on mindfulness, diet and nutrition, exercise planners, as well as relevant resources for mental health, tips on how to work remotely, budgeting and a dedicated podcast channel.

STEPtember

STEPtember raises funds for improving the lives of people living with cerebral palsy and provides a way for teams to connect virtually, and incentivises exercising during lockdown. NSLHD exceeded this year's fundraising target of \$70,000.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

NSLHD currently has over 98% of staff vaccinated with at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination.

The People and Culture Directorate and the Vaccination Compliance Project Team have been supporting employees to ensure compliance with the Public Health Order - COVID-19

Vaccination of Health Care Workers. The Order requires all healthcare workers to have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or be issued with a medical exception certificate before 30 September 2021, and have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine before 30 November 2021.

RESEARCH

Sydney Health Partners (SHP)

In conjunction with the major SHP, NSLHD has led a program of work to centralise finding and contacting key 'touch points' within the LHDs for those conducting research. A SHP Research Directory will be live on the SHP website in October 2021, and will be updated quarterly.

NSLHD Research Strategy

The NSLHD Research Annual Report, an important deliverable for the NSLHD Research Strategy, was published in September 2021. The Annual Report showcases a small proportion of the research conducted across NSLHD in 2020.

Nursing and Midwifery Research & Practice Development

Key updates for Nursing Research and Practice Development include:

- 38 NSLHD Nursing and Midwifery publications for 2021
- Research intranet training site and Nurse Practitioner (NP) intranet website updated
- Nurse Practitioner intranet website site updated with approved scopes
- Team site application for researcher mentor platform submitted
- Review underway of NP/TNP Scope templates with Nurse Practitioner network groups
- Conducted the first NLSHD TNP/RN candidate network meetings
- Support of N&M clinicians across NSLHD with individual and group meetings

Kolling Institute

The Kolling Institute Research Plan details the implementation of the Kolling Institute's five-year strategy, and defines a range of goals, timelines and measurable steps. The Plan will ensure the Kolling Institute has a robust strategic framework. A draft of the Plan was presented to the Kolling Institute Governance Committee in September and will suggested changes will be included prior to endorsement at the next Committee meeting.

Kolling Institute researcher Professor Lyn March was awarded a prestigious Centre for Research Excellence for inflammatory arthritis and Professor Manuela Ferreira awarded a highly competitive Investigator Grant.

NORTH FOUNDATION

New Appointments

The NORTH Foundation team has expanded to include a Director of Philanthropy, Trusts and Foundations Officer and Fundraising Coordinator.

NSLHD and NORTH Foundation Grants Program

A total of 72 applications were received for the NSLHD-NORTH Foundation Grants Program. The Foundation and Funding Advisory Committee have recommended eight applications for a shortlist with final decision to be made by December.



Deb Willcox
Chief Executive

Date: 13/10/2021