

Auricle

EDITION 3 / 2023



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Fun facts

This year's medical imaging stats:



220,000 BMI IMAGING EXAMS IN 2023

160,000 OUTPATIENT IMAGING EXAMS

53,000 INPATIENTS IMAGED

22,000 ED PATIENTS IMAGED AFTER-HOURS

500 CALLS PER DAY BMI SWITCHBOARD CALLS

Cover

Pictured: National Referral Hospital paediatric team Gordon Plant Neremana, Dr John Taniamae, Larissa D Solomon, and Dr Martin Keniriposia



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Auricle is edited and produced by Barwon Health's Public Affairs and Communications Department.



MESSAGE FROM the Chief Executive

As 2023 draws to a close, we can reflect on a year where there have been significant achievements across Barwon Health.

In some ways, it has felt like a transition year where COVID has not been so dominant, but I am also conscious that the next wave is never too far away. Thankfully those waves are becoming more manageable alongside our day-to-day work. We have continued our commitment to the community, finding new and innovative ways to respond to the pandemic, while developing a myriad of new programs and services to better meet the needs of the community.

It's very rewarding to receive recognition for our hard work and it was important to have Barwon Health initiatives recognised at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards last month. Barwon Health won the award for "creating a sustainable and climate resilient health system", thanks to our power purchasing agreement with Acciona's Mount Gellibrand wind farm. The award recognises the innovation and impact we've made in our pathway to net zero emissions. The initiative was developed in partnership with Barwon Water and GeelongPort and is also a reflection of the benefits of the strong partnerships we have across the Barwon South West region. We all recognise that climate change demands action and we know there is a direct link between our environment and the wellbeing of Victorians, especially those who are most vulnerable. The project was also a finalist at the recent Premier's Sustainability

Awards and took home the Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation Award at the Institute of Public Administration Australia Awards held in June.

In addition, our paediatric audiology initiative for Aboriginal infants was recognised as a finalist at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards in the category for excellence in Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

Whilst we celebrate the achievements in meeting our various targets and winning awards, we also like to measure our performance as an organisation through the impact we have in the lives of people in our community. I like to remind myself that listening to the stories from the community, our patients and our residents helps us keep track of how we're going. The stories our consumers tell is the story of Barwon Health. Wherever I go across the Barwon South Region, people stop me to tell me about the great care and service they receive from Barwon Health.

Our infrastructure team has numerous projects underway across the region, such as the new Early Parenting Centre on the McKellar site, and other developments due for completion in 2024, including our new Children's Emergency Department, the new dental service at Barwon Health North, and the Central Geelong Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub in Moorabool Street.

These new facilities will be a welcome addition to our ever-growing range of services and will help us deliver care to our rapidly growing community. It will also provide modern fit for purpose working environments for our staff.

Last year's major announcement was the funding for Barwon Women's and Children's, and it has been important this year to see progress in the form of early works, community engagement and design. We

welcome the input of both consumers and staff on the concept design, helping ensure our new facilities are accessible and welcoming to everyone who uses them.

As always, I'd like to thank you all for your hard work this year as we begin a busy summer period that brings many visitors to our region. There is much to look forward to in 2024 and I'm confident as always that we will rise to any challenge that comes our way.

Kind regards,

Frances Diver | Chief Executive



WHAT'S NEW



Pictured: Heath Wing 7 NUM Laura MacLeod.

NEW LOOK FOR PATRICIA HEATH WING LEVEL 7

A refurbished Patricia Heath Wing Level 7 is offering staff and patients a new-look, cheerier ward space.

The renovation includes a fresh coat of paint, upgrades to bathrooms, staff rooms and medication rooms, replaced ceiling and flooring throughout the ward, and an upgrade to the nurse call system, significantly reducing noise levels on the ward.

Nurse unit manager Laura MacLeod said staff and patients were enjoying the newly refurbished ward.

“It’s now light and bright, has increased safety features, and greater storage, while the Aboriginal art on the front desk and windows creates a welcoming environment for all.”

Laura thanked Leesa Polwarth for managing the refurbishment project.

ACUTE SERVICES EXPAND WITH NEW WARD



Pictured: (L-R): Birdsey 7 staff Jayde Bradford, Colleen McCutcheon and NUM Nicole McCallum.

A new 16-bed gastroenterology and general medical ward opened on level 7 of the Roy Birdsey Wing in August.

The ward was made possible thanks to additional growth funding to support an expansion of acute services at University Hospital Geelong.

A smooth transition of patients and staff was led by Rhiannon Parry as acting nurse unit manager, followed by Nicole McCallum, the ward’s new nurse unit manager, who said the team had worked together to adapt to their new environment.

“They are really enjoying the smaller footprint on the ward, as it allows for a more collaborative approach to the care of their gastroenterology and general medical patients,” she said.

HANDMADE DONATIONS SUPPORT END-OF-LIFE



Donations from crafty members of the community are offering support to patients and their families navigating end-of-life experiences.

Earlier this year, Barwon Health had an enormous community response to a story about handmade belonging bags that were made to carry treasured memories for families of loved ones who pass away in hospital.

Dozens of community groups and individuals reached out to Barwon Health intensive care nurse Ashlee, who coordinated

efforts to create the bags, offering to donate their skilled sewing hands to the project.

One of these groups was the Geelong branch of Country Women's Association (CWA), which also offered to extend the scope of the project by generously donating handmade quilts to lay on the beds of palliative/end-of-life patients.

"We are very grateful, and the quilts will help to bring some colour to patients' bed spaces," Ashlee said.

"Each one is individual and unique, much like each patient is an important individual and member of our community."

Pictured: (L-R) Gwen White from the Geelong branch of the CWA and intensive care nurse Ashlee.



ALL ABOARD THE HYGEIA FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT

With thanks to a Positive Ageing Grant from the City of Greater Geelong, clients of the Barwon Health Social Supports Program boarded the Hygeia in October to cruise the tranquil waters of Corio Bay.

Located in Belmont, the Social Support Program engages people in meaningful social activities that draw on personal strengths, encourage independence and involve them in their community.

Pictured: Staff from the Social Supports Program.



Mako Robot Improving Hospital Efficiency

A robotic surgery aid is improving the precision of knee and hip replacements at Barwon Health, resulting in faster recoveries and shorter hospital stays.

The Mako Robot allows for an innovative procedure that helps orthopaedic surgeons perform joint replacement surgery with greater precision and safety, by combining 3D CT-based planning software with haptic technology and data analytics. These high-tech features make the surgery more accurate and predictable, leading to better results for patients.

Mako Robotic-Arm assisted surgeries begin with a CT scan to create a detailed 3D virtual model of the knee or hip joint from multiple angles, without the need for invasive surgical procedures.

This allows surgeons to design highly personalised and intricate surgical plans before placing the implant with the precision made possible by the Mako Robot.

Barwon Health surgeon Mike Galvin said the robotic procedure allowed him to implant a knee or hip replacement with much more accuracy, leading to health benefits for patients.

“The Mako Robot assists with the implantation of the hip or knee replacement, which means I can operate at a faster rate with greater precision,” he said.

“Customising the position of the implants based on the patient’s anatomy makes it possible to place a patient-specific joint

replacement. It’s shown to result in a faster recovery and shorter hospital stay for knee surgeries, while hip replacements have a reduced risk of having a leg length discrepancy or dislocation.

“The data shows this procedure has the potential to reduce hospital length of stay, which improves hospital efficiency.”

Mr Galvin said surgeons were excited to offer the technology to public patients, as the treatment had previously been limited to the private system.

“We are the first regional public hospital in Victoria to have one and it’s really exciting that this service can be offered in the public system.”

“There is training underway for all surgeons to be able to do it, with several of us who learnt to use it in private practice.”

Pictured: Surgeons Michael Galvin and Rekha Ganeshalingam with the Mako robot.



Recovery Journey **INSPIRES** Art Series

Newtown artist Murray Chenery is painting a series of works to convey the vivid emotional side of his healthcare journey following heart surgery this year.

The highs and lows of his experience are being turned into 22 explorative paintings, aiming to inform and educate people about the emotional toll that comes with recovering from major surgery, while showing gratitude to the staff who cared for him.

After a double-bypass surgery, Murray experienced a blood clot during his recovery that required eight weeks of rehabilitation at Barwon Health's Sunrise Centre. The former brand and marketing manager said he felt well-prepared for the physical side of his

operation and recovery, but was unaware of the mental health impacts he would face.

"It's a natural part of the process to go into some quite dark and interesting places that you have to pull yourself out of," he said.

"You learn a lot about the operation and the physical aspect, but most people don't talk about the emotional side of the experience, including anxiety."

"The Sunrise Centre was fantastic with a combination of exercise and information, focused on the individual's needs and committed to getting the best result for the patient.

"My artworks are a way to capture my thoughts and feelings through that experience, including my diagnosis, surgery,

recovery and rehabilitation. I hope these works will convey that the mental and emotional side of the process is as important as the physical side of it. If it helps one person, it was worthwhile."

Murray's passion for sharing his experience to help others has also led to an appointment as a peer support leader for Geelong for Heart Support Australia.

"This group meets to help each other avoid returning to hospital with further heart issues," he said.

"I'm at a time in my life when I can give back to the community, I have the energy and the passion, and this is one of the ways I can make a difference.

Murray hopes to display the completed works at Boom Gallery in Newtown and Hoop Gallery in Torquay, as well as University Hospital Geelong in the New Year.

Pictured: Artist Murray Chenery.



Learning visit for Solomon Islands clinicians

A fellowship of nurses and doctors from the Solomon Islands have had a chance to observe Barwon Health clinical practices in a cross-cultural and organisations exchange.

Two groups of six clinical staff from the National Referral Hospital in Honiara have spent about six weeks at University Hospital Geelong, supported by grants from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trades.

Each clinician had a training plan and took opportunities to observe a range of activities including practices, specialty ward environments, staff interactions, clinical governance, guidelines, policies and procedures.

Senior paediatric registrar Dr John Taniamae said he was interested in seeing how Barwon Health teams collaborated and the way staff interacted with patients.

"I think coming here is eye-opening to see how we can integrate the little things we've learned, so we're very grateful for this opportunity," he said.

"There are little gaps we can fill in terms of our clinical work and I know having our clinical staff experience an environment like this will help them see what they can do with our more limited resources and facilities at home.

"It's quite a big difference to the facilities and the resources that we have available, and it's been very interesting to see how staff approach the patient and the infection prevention measures."

Barwon Health chief medical officer Dr Ajai Verma said the organisation was grateful for the grant, and excited to pilot a clinical exchange program between the paediatric units.

"This is a great opportunity to enhance and formalise organisational and people-to-people relationships between our two countries and support health capability building in the Asia Pacific region."

– Dr Ajai Verma

"Barwon Health clinicians have volunteered in Solomon Islands in the past and we feel privileged to be able to host the six awardees and support the development of clinical skills and practices that will benefit their local communities. "We look forward to maintaining these relationships once they return home."

Pictured (L-R): National Referral Hospital paediatric team Gordon Plant Nerevana, Dr John Taniamae, Larissa D Solomon, and Dr Martin Keniriposa.

Baby gifts presented to Pacific Island midwives

Barwon Health executive assistant Carmel Walker has presented bags of newborn beanies and wraps to midwives visiting Australia from the Pacific islands.



Carmel met with the Papua New Guinea and Fiji midwives at an Australian College of Midwives Annual Conference in September, presenting the gifts on behalf of Beansies for Babies in the Pacific, a community networking group across Australia and the Pacific.

"If any of our staff are visiting the Pacific islands either for work or holidaying, I am more than happy to provide some supplies of beanies and wraps, which will be extremely well received by the maternity and neonatal wards in Pacific hospitals.

"Through our network, I'm able to provide introductions and the staff, mothers and babies in the hospitals will be very grateful for these practical gifts".

For further information or to donate knitted beanies and items, please contact Carmel on carmel.walker@barwonhealth.org.au

"It's heartwarming to present our gifts to the midwives who are always very appreciative and excited to receive them."

- Carmel Walker

Pictured: Fijian midwife Alomeci Medamaicibi and Barwon Health executive assistant Carmel Walker at the Australian College of Midwives Annual Conference.



Sustainability Windfarm Agreement

Barwon Health's commitment to sustainability was celebrated at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards in November, with recognition for a power purchase agreement (PPA) with a local wind farm.

The Barwon Renewable Energy Partnership (B-REP) of Barwon Water, Barwon Health and GeelongPort was acknowledged with an award for "Creating a sustainable and climate resilient health system", after taking a big step towards using 100 per cent renewable electricity and producing net zero emissions.

In late 2022, the three organisations entered the agreement with ACCIONA's Mount Gellibrand Wind Farm near Birregurra for the provision of 68 gigawatt hours a year of renewable electricity.

The 10-year agreement will see renewable electricity produced at the farm and sent to a grid allocated to the three partners,

offsetting the energy used at their Geelong facilities.

This will provide Barwon Health with 15 gigawatt hours of clean electricity annually for a decade, potentially reducing total greenhouse gas emissions by around 70 per cent or 14,700 tonnes per year.

Barwon Health chief executive Frances Diver said the award was fantastic recognition for an innovative example of public sector collaboration to support the region's transition to renewable energy.

“Hospitals and health services consume a large amount of energy, and we believe agreements like this can significantly reduce carbon footprints and help our communities become more sustainable and healthier,” she said.

“At Barwon Health, we recognise climate change is an issue that demands action and there is a direct link between the wellbeing of our environment and the health of Victorians, especially those who are most vulnerable.

“We're proud to partner with Barwon Water and GeelongPort on this long-term arrangement, and we thank the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards for recognising the significance of this partnership.”

Barwon Health was also recognised at the awards event with a nomination for an innovative paediatric audiology initiative for Aboriginal infants in the Geelong region, in partnership with the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative.

Pictured (L-R): Victorian chief health officer Dr Clare Looker, Barwon Health chief executive Frances Diver, regional environmental sustainability manager Kylie McIntyre, and Building Services director Oscar Nowak.

Nurse Tamieka's care is a cut above the rest

Hairdresser-turned-theatre nurse Tamieka O'Toole brings a dash of style to her bedside care, with salon skills that help her go the extra mile for patients.

Tamieka was "born and raised in the salon" with two hairdressers as parents, working as a hairdresser for six years before becoming a nurse 10 years ago.

In that time, she has taken a few opportunities to combine her unique skills, blending two seemingly unrelated careers that can both leave people feeling uplifted and cared for.

"When I was a student, I was working with an older patient who was struggling to express her emotions about a bad diagnosis," she said.

"After I showered her, I sat her down for a blow wave and she opened up with her feelings and thoughts like she was in a salon rather than in a hospital.

"A patient recently came in for multiple procedures and needed a haircut for their unkempt locks, so I was able to give them a dignified haircut instead of shaving it right back.

"There are numerous patients we see who find it difficult to go to the hairdresser due to anxiety, and at some point their family will shave their head or it'll happen when they come in for a procedure using a general anaesthetic, so I'm happy to use my skills to help out."



“There are numerous patients we see who find it difficult to go to the hairdresser due to anxiety, and at some point their family will shave their head or it’ll happen when they come in for a procedure using a general anaesthetic, so I’m happy to use my skills to help out.”

Pictured: Hairdresser-turned-nurse Tamieka O'Toole.



Communities help shape Barwon Women's and Children's

Planning for the Barwon Women's and Children's is well underway with staff and community having a voice in the creation of this vital new facility.

Member for Geelong Christine Couzens held the first meeting of the Community Consultative Committee, which brought together community members from around the region to have their say.

The Barwon Women's and Children's Community Consultative Committee (CCC) has been established to provide a forum for local community members to provide input into the design of the Barwon Women's and Children's Project through open dialogue and consultation.

From the large number of submissions received, 15 community members were chosen to work alongside representatives from the Wathaurong Co-Operative, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, City of Greater Geelong, Barwon Health and the Victorian Health Building Authority.

The committee will meet regularly until the early months of 2024 to give feedback on local community health needs, represent the community's diverse views, and comment on emerging issues, opportunities and priorities of the community.

The Barwon Women's and Children's (BWC) project team is committed to ensuring local community can have their say on this landmark project. As part of this, Barwon Health and the Victorian Health Building Authority also hosted targeted workshops with community members who may have specific needs and interests.

Recently, the team hosted three workshops with attendees from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, along with past patients and LGBTIQ+ communities, providing an opportunity to give input on key aspects of the new Barwon Women's and Children's. This includes building and environment design, accessibility, incorporation of local stories and histories into building design and communication channel preferences.

The wider community also had the opportunity to provide vital feedback via an online survey, which sought input into key areas of design, including the patient and family experience, the vision for family and outdoor spaces, accessibility and wayfinding.

Pictured: Mobaraka Yaqobi from the Hazara community was very pleased about being consulted for Barwon Women's and Children's. Credit: Hadeel Albadran.



Reducing barriers to healthcare

A women's health information session was held in September to give vital health prevention and support information to Afghan women who are new to the Australian healthcare system.

The session was held with Cultura's Afghan Women's Group as part of an ongoing partnership with the Barwon South West Public Health Unit, coinciding with Jean Hailes Women's Health Week, Australia's largest event dedicated to the health and wellbeing of all women, girls and gender-diverse people.

Delivered by members of Barwon Health's Refugee Health team, the presentation aimed to minimise barriers to accessing health information and to deliver important health information to women from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Barwon Health refugee health nurse Colet Hammond said it was important for women in all communities to know about their health service options.

"When women migrate to Australia, it is important they understand what healthcare is available," she said.

"This includes health checks and screening opportunities, along with general health prevention education. A session like this delivered in their language can minimise the barriers to accessing vital information."

Pictured: Barwon Health's refugee health nurse Colet Hammond with women from the Cultura Afghan Women's group.



DIETETICS

Barwon Health dietitians work across a range of different settings including community health, rehabilitation, the acute hospital and everything in between. During Malnutrition Week (9 - 13 October), our home-based dietitians shared some insights on their vital role in malnutrition treatment and prevention.

Nutrition and dietetics manager Miriam Chin said staff visited patients in their own home, which provides a unique and insightful perspective into the barriers they can face in meeting their nutrition needs.

“Working within the home allows us to assist patients in meeting their individual goals, in a practical, real-life setting,” she said.

“We often seek input from multidisciplinary team members such as occupational therapists, speech pathologists, physiotherapists and nurses.

“Occupational therapists may use their therapy sessions to take a patient to the supermarket, helping to increase their independence and motivation with cooking, or they may observe a patient mixing their own supplement drink.

“These practical, team-based goals, can assist with treating and preventing malnutrition in the home, allowing patients to participate in the community, improve their quality of life and stay out of hospital.”

Miriam said while dietitians played a key role in the management of malnutrition, all staff are encouraged to look out for signs in patients and family members, with the prevalence of malnutrition in the acute care and rehabilitation settings believed to be up to 40 per cent, affecting at least one in three adult patients.

“Patients who are malnourished are likely to have longer hospital stays and a higher rate of readmission,” she said.

“If you notice that your patients or loved ones are eating less, no longer enjoying their favourite foods, losing weight without trying or complaining of loose-fitting clothing, you can encourage extra snacks and high energy high protein foods such as milk, cheese, eggs and nuts. And of course, don’t forget to involve one of our friendly dietitians.

Pictured (L-R): GEM @ Home dietitian Jordy and Rehabilitation @ Home dietitian Chelsea.



**MORE FROM
JOANNA FORD
(FOOD SERVICES DIETITIAN)**



Pictured: Joanna Ford, Department of Dietetics.

“Food and nutrition plays an important role in the care provided to patients and residents. Access to nutritious food is essential in preventing and managing malnutrition. A ‘food first’ approach is championed by dietitians and this approach is essential. The food service dietitian works closely with food services to optimise the food provided to patients and residents. They ensure the hospital menu is patient-centred, meets nutrition standards and provides the appropriate balance of nutrients to prevent and manage malnutrition. Maximising the nutritional value of meals by adding nourishing ingredients to the food served, and ensuring high protein foods are available, are just some of the strategies recommended by a food service dietitian.”

–Jo Ford, Food Service Dietitian



Hospital deal improves access to maternity care

Barwon Health and St John of God Geelong Hospital have announced a new formal agreement designed to enhance the community's access to maternity care, including the care of newborn babies.



Pictured (L-R): Barwon Health Women's and Children's clinical director A/Prof. Dave Fuller, St John of God (SJOG) CEO Stephen Roberts, neonatal nurse practitioner Gemma Wiley, and SJOG Women's and Children's Services manager Alicia Strong.

Barwon Health has been engaged to provide paediatric services for St John of God Geelong Hospital's maternity service. This new agreement means increased paediatric support with more paediatricians employed by Barwon Health, who will be rostered to work at Barwon Health and St John of God Geelong Hospital.

The agreement also provides for a new neonatal nurse practitioner program to support newborn care at both hospitals.

The three new neonatal nurse practitioners have advanced skills in neonatal care which will enhance the care provided to newborns across both hospitals.

In Victoria, neonatal nurse practitioners have been part of the maternity and newborn service system in metropolitan tertiary hospitals for more than a decade and we are pleased to be able to expand this model to Geelong.

St John of God Geelong Hospital CEO Stephen Roberts said the partnership was an innovative solution that ensured the region would continue to have access and choice to high-quality maternity services close to home, using a model that had been successful elsewhere.

"It's a great example of how the public and private system can work together for the benefit of our community," he said.

Barwon Health Women's and Children's Services clinical director Associate Professor Dave Fuller said the agreement would attract more neonatal paediatricians to work in the region.

"With ongoing workforce challenges in the health sector across Australia and particularly in rural and regional areas, it is important we collaborate across both hospitals in Geelong to ensure the highest standard of paediatric care," he said.

"The development of the neonatal nurse practitioner model in Geelong strengthens the care at both hospitals and is an important pathway for highly skilled nurses to fully utilise their skills."

This agreement will provide increased dedicated paediatric support at each hospital benefiting families in Geelong and the broader Barwon South West region by expanding and securing our paediatric workforce for the future, said Barwon Health chief executive Frances Diver.

"As the regional public health service, Barwon Health is committed to partnering with St John of God Geelong Hospital to enhance services for our community," Ms Diver said.

"This new agreement is a welcome addition to the range of initiatives and partnerships we have with St John of God Geelong Hospital."

"It's a great example of how the public and private system can work together for the benefit of our community,"

- St John of God Geelong Hospital CEO Stephen Roberts

Pre-Term Birth Clinic offering specialist care

Barwon Health's Pre-Term Birth (PTB) Clinic is providing specialist care to help reduce early labour, improving health outcomes for at-risk newborns.

Launching in July 2022, the clinic oversees pregnancies that require closer monitoring to diagnose or manage a condition that may lead to pre-term labour.

Since the clinic's first year of operation, more than 125 women received specialist pregnancy care.

Clinical midwife specialist Edwina McLean said many of these patients may have previously travelled to Melbourne for

monitoring, while others would be seen in a high-risk pregnancy clinic without the continuity of seeing the same doctor and midwife each time.

"Our aim is to extend as many pregnancies as possible to 39 weeks and prevent pre-term labour," she said.

"Every week counts and we're educating people that brain development continues between 37 and 40 weeks.

"Even if we can see a woman give birth at 35 weeks compared to their previous pregnancy at 26 weeks, there's a much better outcome that wouldn't be possible without the close monitoring, medications and procedures we're able to provide.

"It's so wonderful to get messages from our patients who are thrilled with their experience at our clinic."



Pictured: Clinical midwife specialist Edwina McLean.

Collaborative effort improves outcomes labelled with penicillin allergy

As a baby, Dylan's parents were told he had an allergic reaction to penicillin. When he was admitted to the orthopaedic ward as a 19-year-old, Dylan jumped at the opportunity to get tested to confirm the allergy, as part of the Safer Care Victoria Penicillin 'Check Again' project.

In May, Barwon Health joined 12 other Victorian hospitals to implement the initiative, aiming to improve the documentation of penicillin allergy details in the patient's medical record, allowing the best antibiotic to be chosen.

An allergy assessment form, also known as penicillin challenge, was used on the stroke and orthopaedic wards of University Hospital Geelong, confirming Dylan he is no longer allergic to penicillin and can safely be treated with these antibiotics in the future if required.

Antimicrobial stewardship pharmacist Janice Chiang said 85 per cent of patients with a stated penicillin allergy in the pilot areas now had more complete allergy details documented.

She said on average, one in 10 patients admitted to hospital say they have a penicillin allergy based on what they have previously been told.

"Studies show that with appropriate assessment, only 10 per cent of these patients will have a confirmed penicillin allergy, while the rest can safely take penicillin antibiotics to treat their infection."

"These details provide important information to clinicians in terms of the exact nature, time, symptoms of the patient's previous allergy and what treatments the patients have had to have in the past for the allergy, which helps clinicians determine if a patient's allergy status can be removed."

– Janice Chiang

The project team aims to roll out this initiative to the rest of the hospital.



Pictured (L-R): Nurse Noah Hetherington, pharmacist and project lead for the 'Check Again' team Janice Chiang, patient Dylan Hopps, ward pharmacist Hannah Uhm, and infectious diseases registrar Joanne Peelat at the conclusion of his test.

Sandra has watched generations of children grow up on the children's ward and relished the opportunity to care for them and their families.

Kids Ward NUM retires after 40+ years

Barwon Health paediatric nurse unit manager Sandra Van Roon has said goodbye to nursing after more than 40 years of caring for Geelong children and their families.

Joining Barwon Health as an enrolled nurse in 1979, Sandra soon was inspired to study further and become a registered nurse.

"I wanted to soak up all the information and so I did three years working on wards as a student nurse," she said.

"It's in paediatrics that I've felt I made the biggest difference because you can work so closely with parents as well as the patients.

"I'm a very calm mother and very mothering, so I've loved caring for babies and teaching skills to new mums.

"Our role is very much about helping parents and teaching them how to care for the health of their kids, so it's been rewarding to make such a difference to parents as well.

"A lot of the time, we're caring for the child and the parent, nurturing them both as you hopefully send them home with a better understanding of the child's illness.

"I've been to a 40th birthday recently of a patient I looked after, so you really get to watch them grow up."

Sandra's nurturing approach to nursing extends beyond patients and their families, with many staff viewing her as a mother figure after many years mentoring younger nurses.

"A lot of nurses come to me for advice or for emotional support when things are a bit tough, and I've always tried to teach them that family should come first.

"I aim to be flexible with my staff and meet their needs while making sure the ward keeps going, showing we're here to help as much as we can."

Her legacy in paediatric nursing goes beyond conventional care, with a passion for oncology nursing, where she was a pioneer in developing guidelines and processes for oncology care in children.

As she retires, Sandra acknowledges the evolving nature of paediatric care and the responsibility to look after mental health, as well as physical.

"I think kids have changed, and their lives are more complex now, especially with changes to the family dynamic," she said.

"There are a lot of families out there doing it tough, and mental health education has become a greater part of our focus. We're not only medical and surgical nurses, but there's mental health on top of it, as you care for all of the patient's needs."

A morning tea was held for Sandra with staff paying tribute to her contributions to Barwon Health, before her final day on Friday 20 October.

Pictured: Children's ward patients Oliver Smith and Sarah Ivey with retired nurse unit manager Sandra Van Roon.



Pictured: Dr Tom Neerhut.

Easing the path to surgical training: Perspectives of the Surgical Resident

A new study of surgical registrars and residents has highlighted the skills most important to succeed in the field.

Developing the surgical and professional skills to become a proficient surgeon takes many years, beginning with junior doctors in the role of the surgical resident.

At Barwon Health, surgical residents rotate through each of the surgical sub-specialities, honing both their technical skills and professional skills prior to RACS (Royal Australasian College of Surgeons) Surgical Education and Training (SET) applications.

In a new medical journal, staff specialist urologists Dr Kathryn McLeod, Associate Prof. Richard Grills and surgical resident Thomas Neerhut sought to find out what makes the 'successful' surgical resident.

Dr Neerhut said they were interested in what defines the successful surgical resident most prepared for surgical application.

"By asking SET registrars and other residents what defines the successful surgical resident, we were hoping to clearly highlight what skills surgical residents should prioritise," he said.

"This could streamline the resident development. It is a marathon, not a sprint, but we can definitely make it easier."

He said the team was surprised to find one of the most highly valued traits was the ability to master the simple jobs prior to stepping up to more responsibility.

"Whilst possibly 'mundane', these simple tasks were deemed essential to the foundation of surgical residents.

"When ready to take on more responsibility, it is important residents are familiar with their limitations and practice safely.

"Integral to safe practice was honest clear communication and effective teamwork, which was valued by all responders and something many of us share in our daily life at Barwon Health.

"We are committed to developing surgical residents and ensuring their preparedness for accredited surgical training, and we hope the findings of our research team will assist in this objective."

For more information, see 'Defining the good surgical resident: a resident and registrar perspective, by Thomas Neerhut, John Ninan, Richard Grills, Kathryn McLeod, published in the ANZ Journal of Surgery.

Barwon Health Research celebrates a successful National Clinical Trials Governance Accreditation

Barwon Health scored 2.6 out of a maximum of 3.0 for the recent National Clinical Trials Governance Accreditation. This fantastic outcome showcases the leadership across clinical trials at Barwon Health.

During the accreditation survey, the clinical trials operational framework was checked for thirty randomly selected trials at Barwon Health to ensure trials have been assimilated into usual care and clinical governance.

Research co-director Erica Grundell said Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre leaders Bree Sarah, Natasha Savvides and all their colleagues in research were congratulated for their hard work in preparing for accreditation.

"This result is a testament to strong teamwork," she said.

"By working together across therapeutic areas to create an uplift for all staff and participants, we have created a new capability platform for clinical trials throughout Barwon Health.

"Planning is underway for the next chapter.

"Our goal is that Barwon Health is rated as 'established' on all NCTGF standards at the next accreditation, and that this in turn underpins progress toward the establishment of a world-class research ecosystem driving continuous improvements in patient care and community outcomes."



Pictured (L-R): Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre (ACCTC) Operations Manager Bree Sarah and Research Safety and Quality Manager Natasha Savvides.

By working together across therapeutic areas to create an uplift for all staff and participants, we have created a new capability platform for clinical trials throughout Barwon Health."



Introducing the Barwon Health DU Clinician Scientist Pathway

A thriving clinician PhD program is vital to the future of the Barwon Health and Deakin University partnership and brings immediate and long-term benefits to patient care. The Barwon Health and Deakin University Clinician Scientist Pathway will fund 10 clinician PhDs across medicine, nursing, midwifery and allied health.

The Clinician Scientist Pathway is designed to recruit and retain exceptional talent. The pathway will:

Support clinician researchers to complete clinical training or maintain clinical roles and work flexibly with their training body to meet requirements, such as specific clinical competencies and rotations.

Provide excellent opportunities to build a research track record, positioning these clinician researchers for future funding success and clinical and research leadership.

Provide improved career prospects for allied health, nursing, midwifery and medical clinicians with PhD qualifications.

To register your interest or find out more about the Clinician Scientist Pathway, contact: research@barwonhealth.org.au

Dr Kelsey gives Toronto presentation

Urology HMO Dr Ellen Kelsey was invited to deliver a podium presentation at the International Continence Society 2023 Annual Meeting in Toronto during September.

Ellen represented the lead investigator of the study Dr Kathryn McLeod and the Department of Urological Surgery at University Hospital Geelong.

Dr Kelsey has found that within Australia, there is no consensus in the anatomical location and number of injection sites of OnabotulinumA (botox) required to treat idiopathic overactive bladder.

Dr Kelsey acknowledges the need for clinical trials and shared her findings with the International Urological community, which will hopefully commence the communication needed to move towards an agreement for best practices. This study was supported by funding from Western Alliance



Pictured: Urology HMO Dr Ellen Kelsey presenting in Toronto.

Study informs Buruli ulcer prevention advice

As cases of Buruli ulcer increase yearly across Victoria, a new study has provided another step in understanding how the bacterium is transmitted.

Buruli ulcer (BU) is a skin disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium ulcerans*, causing ulceration and skin loss that generally gets bigger with time, so early diagnosis and prompt treatment can minimise skin loss and make treatment easier.

Through a collaboration of researchers at Barwon Health, Deakin University and CSIRO, the study included 245 adult BU cases and 481 postcode-matched controls across BU-endemic areas of Victoria.

Research found the chance of contracting BU was more than double for individuals with diabetes, and nearly three times higher for

those working outdoors with soil contact in known transmission areas (compared to indoor work), but lower among those with reported history of BCG vaccination.

Barwon South West Public Health Unit epidemiologist Bridgette McNamara said the study provided clinicians with more evidence that simple prevention steps can help minimise the risk of BU.

“Research has shown that areas where humans are most frequently contracting Buruli ulcer are areas where possums, soil, and mosquitoes are found to be carrying the causative bacteria,” she said.

“Our data show that there are groups at increased risk of Buruli ulcer including those working outside with soil contact and those with health conditions such as diabetes. This study provides the evidence for what we have been recommending in terms of minimising risk and helping to prevent transmission for the whole community,” she says.

There is increasing evidence that mosquito bites and possums play a role in disease transmission in Victoria.

Research has shown that areas where humans are most frequently contracting Buruli ulcer are areas where soil, mosquitoes and possums are most frequently carrying the causative bacteria. Infections are also more likely acquired in the warmer months, but can be acquired at any time of the year.

Barwon Health vaccine approved for use for RSV in the United States

A vaccine trialled by Barwon Health researchers has been approved to be used on pregnant women in the USA to protect babies from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Pfizer’s Abrysvo vaccine has received the tick for use, making it the first maternal vaccine to help shield infants at birth through six months from lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD) and severe LRTD due to RSV.

There are currently no vaccines registered for use in Australia for RSV, which can cause severe cold-like symptoms among infants and older people.

Bree Sarah, Barwon Health’s Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre research operations manager, said four participants had enrolled in the Clinical Trials Unit study during 24-36 weeks’ gestation of pregnancy.

“The trial involved a single vaccine (blinded to either placebo or the RSV vaccine), a seven-day diary to monitor for any reactions to this vaccine, and two blood tests for serologic assessment,” Ms Sarah said.

“Information from their birth was also recorded and infant participants born to enrolled maternal participants were followed from birth to either 12 months or 24 months of age for RSV surveillance and safety.

“Cord blood was collected at delivery for serologic assessment and regular physical examinations were conducted by the study paediatrician.”

The US Food and Drug Administration approved Abrysvo in May for the prevention of LRTD caused by RSV in people 60 and older.

Barwon Health and Deakin join collaborative centre for mental health

Barwon Health and Deakin University are part of a new Victorian Government supported statewide partnership aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing support for adult and older adult Victorians.

A consortium partnership, led by The University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital, has been selected to work with the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing to develop best practice treatment and support for people who use mental health and wellbeing services in Victoria.

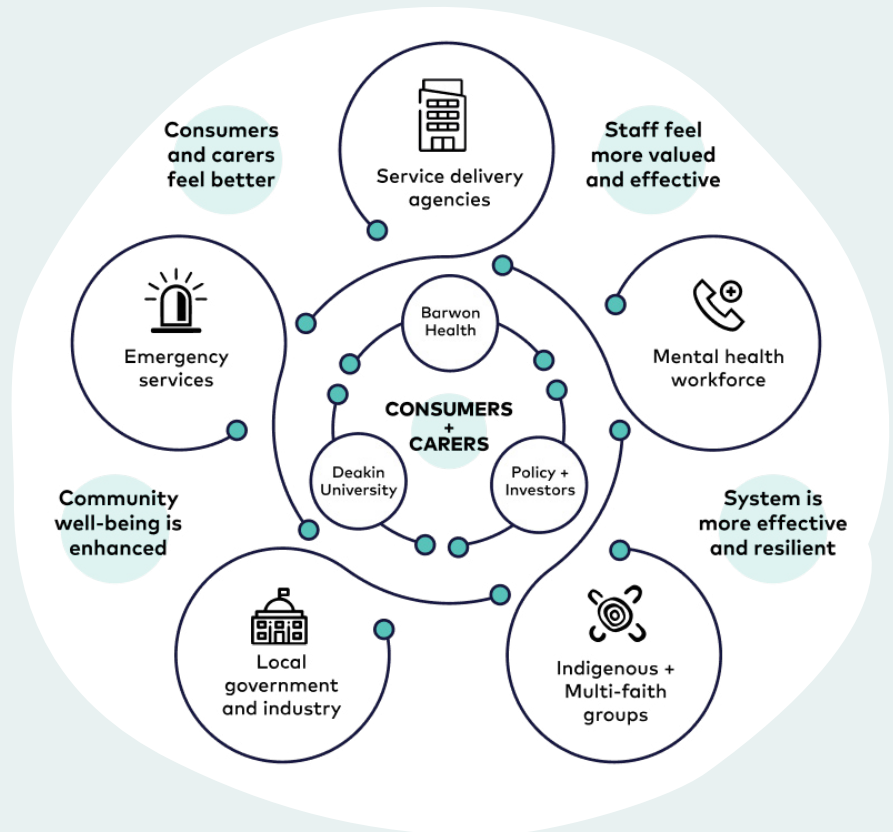
The consortium brings together a network of 20 metropolitan and regional health services and research institutions to lead cutting-edge research in mental health treatments and services. Barwon Health and Deakin University are key regional partners in the consortium.

Announced by then Victorian Minister for Mental Health, Gabrielle Williams, the Centre was established in response to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System and will have a strong focus on improving people's experience of the mental health system, including people who use mental health and wellbeing services, their loved ones and people who work in the sector.

Barwon Health and Deakin University's long-standing partnership in research and clinical leadership in mental health has grown to include the Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT), the Institute for Health Transformation (IHT) and the more recent Change to Improve Mental Health (CHIME) Translational Research Partnership.

Director of CHIME, Renae Carolin, said through these Institutes Barwon Health and Deakin were ideally positioned as key regional partners in the consortium, enabling continued excellence in research and innovation to improve the mental health and well-being of communities in Barwon and South West Victoria.

“We welcome the opportunity to contribute our expertise in regional health service delivery and translational research in mental health, together with our consumer and carer lived experience, to the Centre’s shared vision and mission.” Renee Carolin said.



Pictured: Creating a regional Listening and Learning Mental Healthcare System, CHIME will partner with key stakeholders in the region. Credit: Deakin University.



Primary Contact Physiotherapy Service in Urgent Care

The success of the primary contact physiotherapy service demonstrates an effective way to help manage demand in Urgent Care, writes physiotherapist Mark Napper.

In 2008, Barwon Health successfully implemented a primary contact physiotherapy (PCP) service in the University Hospital Geelong Emergency Department (ED), with an established daily service ongoing since. Based on the success of this model, the inclusion of a PCP service was considered early in the design of the model of care for the Urgent Care Centre at Barwon Health North, with the service commencing in 2022.

The PCP service operates three days per week, Saturday to Monday, which are the days with the greatest number of presentations meeting the physiotherapy scope of practice. Presentations are generally dominated by injuries associated with children's and adult's sport, misadventure, and "DIY weekend warriors".

The scope of practice is aligned with the ED's PCP service, with the service staffed by physiotherapists from the ED team. Adult and paediatric patients are seen within the service. All simple trauma (sprain/strains, simple fractures, simple dislocations) and musculoskeletal presentations without significant red flags meet the scope of practice, and can be independently managed by the PCP service.

"Day in the life" A Saturday in April 2023

On a Saturday like any other in autumn or winter, presentations were dominated by weekend sport. Service was delivered by a single physiotherapist working a day shift and two nurse practitioners, one working a morning and the other an evening shift. There were 54 patients who presented for triage, with 10 deemed inappropriate for the UCC and transferred to another facility, mostly to the University Hospital Geelong ED.

The PCP saw 14 patients during the shift - eight adults and six children. A range of traumatic and non-traumatic musculoskeletal presentations were seen by the PCP on the day. The average length of stay was 65 minutes. This included triage, initial assessment, radiology provision and interpretation, and treatment. This short length of stay illustrates how efficiently an UCC can provide care for appropriate cohorts of patients.



Pictured: Physiotherapist Emily Bradshaw with a patient.



Pictured: Physiotherapist Mark Napper.

International Overdose Awareness Day

International Overdose Awareness Day began 22 years ago with a small ceremony to remember the lives lost to overdose in St Kilda. It has now become an international event, with more than 700 campaigns recently held on 31 August.

Barwon Health has participated in this event since the early 2000s, this year it included a newspaper campaign that shared stories from four people and what the day means to them.

Excerpts from these testimonials can be found below.

If you would like more information on how to prevent and respond to opioid overdose, including the use of naloxone, an opioid antagonist medicine that can temporarily reverse the effects of opioids;

please call: [1800 196 805](tel:1800196805)

or email: harmreductionservices@barwonhealth.org.au.

I have lost so many clients to accidental overdose. It is an ongoing sadness and fear that stalks my work. It takes one “hot” shot and a person is gone forever, leaving a legacy of desperate sadness, regret and longing for what might have been.”

– General practitioner, Dr Mark Davis.

“I’ve lost several friends to overdose, as well as people that I have met through work. It means that I live with an ongoing grief and sadness, and I guess a sense of waiting for the news that someone else I know has been lost. I think that it’s important for the wider community to know that most overdoses are accidental, and therefore, mostly preventable.”

– Harm Reduction Victoria health promotion officer, Brittany.

“I survived eight heroin overdoses. I wasn’t a stereotypical addict because I come from a good family and went to a private school. Society must know that overdose and addiction do not discriminate. My story says that people can and do recover when they are given a fighting chance.”

– AOD peer worker, Chloe.

“Many people in our community have experienced life-threatening overdoses. We have worked hard to keep them alive and support them. Raising awareness helps us all to support survivors and prevent future harm.”

– Professor Eugene Athan OAM, Barwon South West Public Health Unit director

Staff acknowledgements

Congratulations to Lauren Langley

Barwon Health midwifery unit manager Lauren Langley was recently awarded the Brookes Scholars Medal. This award is given to Deakin University's top two MBA students, with Lauren completing her Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Deakin University in 2022.

Lauren, who is also a Deans Merit award recipient, is committed to driving change through innovation and focused her MBA study on project management masterclasses.

Lauren has more than 10 years' experience and is passionate about investing in the future of public healthcare, most recently joining the Early Parenting Centre to bring her understanding of multidisciplinary health models.



Staff farewell Stuart Marshall

Staff gathered to send well wishes to PSA co-ordinator Stuart Marshall on 13 November, who retired after 27 years with Barwon Health.

Stuart joined Barwon Health in 1996 as a nursing attendant after concluding his time with the Royal Australian Air Force. During his years of service, Stuart was promoted to co-ordinate Barwon Health's patient services

assistants and was viewed as a mentor to many staff. He has played a pivotal role in developing Barwon Health's partnership with The Gordon and supported many career transitions from other industries into healthcare.

Barwon Health wishes Stuart well in his retirement.



Congratulations to Dr Daniel Henry – Victorian Junior Doctor of the Year

Barwon Health congratulates junior medical officer Dr Daniel Henry, who was recently named the 2023 Victorian Junior Doctor of the Year.

Daniel developed and delivered a series of interactive clinical reasoning tutorials for the fourth year medical students in the emergency medicine rotation on common presenting conditions.

Daniel said he appreciates the recognition he has received for his efforts.

"For me, it's about the recognition of the work you do in trying to improve training and education for junior doctors," he said.

"It's a rewarding career path to take. We as doctors have a sense of training and support each other as doctors."

Daniel was the Barwon Health Intern of the Year in 2021 and currently holds an Affiliate Lecture position with Deakin Medical School.

Active Geelong win

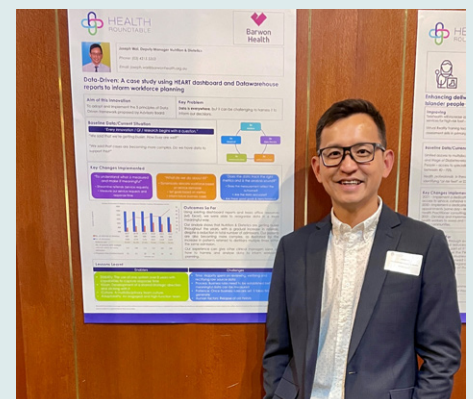
Congratulations to our Staff Wellbeing and Healthy Communities teams, and all the staff who have demonstrated commitment to keeping us active at work. Thanks to their efforts, Barwon Health has taken out top prize as the 2023 Active Geelong Active Workplace of the Year! The award recognises the culture, environment, opportunities and community connections Barwon Health has created to encourage positive health and wellbeing among staff.

Barwon Health Allied Health presents at Health Roundtable conference

Congratulations to Joseph Wai from Nutrition and Dietetics, who has been invited to present at the Health Roundtable (HRT) Allied Health Workshop held in Brisbane.

Following three rounds of innovation sharing sessions, Joe's case study on using the HEART dashboard to inform workforce planning was voted one of the top submissions out of 43 and received an invitation to present at the HRT Allied Health Workshop in Brisbane in November.

During the workshop, he represented Barwon Health to share insights and participate in discussions with other HRT members from across Australia and New Zealand.



Pictured: Lauren Langley, Stuart Marshall and Joseph Wai.

Barwon Health Foundation Update

When patients or families grateful for care received at Barwon Health ask 'how can I thank you?' please feel empowered to inform them about the work of Barwon Health Foundation.

It has been a heart-warming few months for the Barwon Health Foundation that has seen hundreds of thousands dollars raised via its always supportive friends and community.

Support comes in many forms and over the last few months it has shown itself in so many ways, from a glamorous catwalk to an alcohol-free challenge, an industry night of nights, a community fun run and

so much more. There's so many wonderful Foundation events and campaigns throughout the year that you can be involved in to support our health service.

DRY JULY

The Barwon Health Foundation toasted the Geelong community's giving spirit throughout July when 209 Geelong community members went alcohol free to fundraise for Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre and cancer services.

A record \$213,000 was raised through Dry July in support of the region's cancer patients.

'Billy's Frothy Fund', championed by Geelong's own Billy Brownless, triumphantly achieved a 'three-peat', as the number one Dry July fundraising team in Australia, for a third consecutive year and Barwon Health Foundation Board Director, Rory Costelloe, took the country's leading individual fundraiser title.



Pictured: The Dry July 'Billy Frothy's Fund' winning team, Tom Boland, Ali Waight, Billy Brownless, Stefi Kerby, and Rory Costelloe.



Pictured: Three generation of Geelong's Costa family came together to tour the Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre.

ADRIAN COSTA CLINICAL TRIALS CELEBRATION

Three generations of Geelong's Costa family were hosted for a tour of Barwon Health's Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre recently.

The Centre, which was named after the late Adrian Costa, came to life because of an incredible \$2.5 million donation from the Costa family to establish Victoria's first regional clinical trials centre. The evening allowed the Costa family to witness first-hand the incredible and impactful outcomes of their philanthropy and the significant impact that their support continues to have on the region.

WESTFIELD GEELONG'S CATWALK4CANCER

Geelong's annual night of fashion and fundraising saw over 200 guests gather at the new look Geelong Arts Centre for an immersive fashion experience. The evening generated \$48,000 to support Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre and cancer services across the region.

Hosted by local business owners, Demi Duncan and Melinda Baxter, attendees were treated to live shows from local stunning brands including; Westfield Geelong, Bird Skin, Pearls and Roses Bridal, Pearls and Roses Lifestyle, SUKii Boutique, Cercle Lifestyle and Vow Studio – all brought to life by local fashion stylist, Fleur Wood Styling.



NIGHT OF NIGHTS

The Geelong Building and Construction Industry united to raise funds to help local sick kids get the care they need close to home. The collective gathered together at the industry 'Night of Nights' at GMHBA Stadium. \$120,000 was generously raised to support the care and comfort families across our region when accessing Barwon Health.

HEALING HARMONIES

Fun, fundraising and magic melodies combined at the Sharing Tulli's Smile Fund Healing Harmonies event. The fund and event are inspired by Tulli Rose, who died aged eight. Tulli was born with multiple medical conditions and University Hospital Geelong became almost a second home. In her memory, Harmonies for Healing raised over \$40,000 for the hospital's music therapy program that brings smiles to the faces of sick children.



RUN4GEELONG

The 2023 Geelong Advertiser Run4Geelong was the most successful event for many years. The event saw over 3,000 members of the community descend on Geelong's Waterfront in support of our local health service. Stunning weather conditions and a fun family vibe ensured Geelong's favourite fun run was a hit. Together we were able to raise over \$165,000 in support of Barwon Health. These funds stay right here in Geelong making a difference in patient comfort and care across the region. Thank you to every single person who took part, our wonderful volunteers and most of all the incredible Run4Geelong sponsors whose support ensures that every dollar of every registration fee goes directly to supporting the cause. Run4Geelong truly brings our community together. Hope to see you at Run4Geelong 2024!

WE'VE MOVED

The Barwon Health Foundation office is now located at:
192 Myers Street, Geelong. Corner of Myers and Bellerine Street.



Length of Service

Congratulations to the following staff who celebrated Length of Service milestones between July and December 2023!



- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Ash Burke | Sarah Paisley | Margaret Borgelt |
| Ryan Alonzo | Sue Gladman | Tracy Cammaroto |
| Cimi Kuriakose | Andre Moniez | Paul Costa |
| Breda O'Kane | Aaron Wallbank | Raj Devarakonda |
| Leanne Upton | Stephan Beaulac | Cathy Kreidl |
| Adrian Millard | Jess Thomas | Peter Urban |
| Jennifer McPhee | Li Wang | Ellie Keogh |
| Sue O'Callaghan | Deepu Ponnappan | Amanda Dando |
| Michelle Smith | Rinku Ratheesh | Bill Patterson |
| Nakita Clements | Abby Guo | Peter Barnett |
| Hope Lamplough | Susan Blair | Marguerite Fulton |
| Jess Paliouras | Kelly Chapman | George Palicko |
| Cheryl Peart | Natalie Faulkner | Kristin Vanderchys |
| Peter Wood | Dayana Jacob | Rachel Helwig |
| Katelyn Bailey | Merlin Mathew | Emma Spetch |
| Jill Menheere | Julie Owen | Caitlin Lambert |
| Sarah Carter | Oli Dimovski | Cameron White |
| Aisling McCarthy | Kerran Averill | Denise Williamson |
| Joanne Pinch | Madilyn Gorman | Klara Bisinella |
| Tim Shakespeare | Tamsin Riley | Sue Cirillo |
| Mel Whyte | Giuliana Fuscaldo | Tatiana Jackson Mei |
| Brendan Crowe | Laura Polgar | Lauren Johnson |
| Nancy Muthamia | Anita Jovanovic | Nicole Kirby |
| Anna Pang | Georgia Packwood | Sue Wright |
| Heather Carr | Sylvia Hobbs | Sara Aiken |
| Simone Slade | Emma Bishop | Megan Nevill |
| Daniel Peyton | Philippa Humphries | Erica Swaney |
| Leanne Sharples | Troy Makevits | Bec Walker |
| Elise Wilkinson | Angela Thomas | |
| Andrea Fernandes | Magda Chamerska | |

Please note, names and employment commencement dates are taken from official Barwon Health records. Please contact People and Culture to check or update your details - workforcerelations@barwonhealth.org.au.



Sharon Bear
Tim Brown
Megan Hickey
Holly Madden
Natalie Morgan
Abbey O'Neil
Joanne Forrester
Dannielle Van Den Nouwelant



Michelle Tuner-Ward



Maryann Antoniadis
Heather Hart
Marilyn Proctor
Pamela Whitworth

How do I begin to say **THANK YOU?**

Become a Barwon Health Foundation champion! Often it is the quality of care and the kindness of our carers that is remembered when patients are at their most vulnerable.



Sometimes patients want to show thanks or give back to the health service that has so wonderfully cared for them.

Barwon Health Foundation invests in the lifesaving and life-enhancing work of Barwon Health to improve the health and wellbeing of our community...now and for the future.

Donations can be made online via barwonhealthfoundation.com.au over the phone 03 4215 8900 or in person at 192 Myers Street, Geelong.



Barwon Health
Foundation

proudly supporting



Barwon
Health



Our Patients



Our Heroes