

Summer | 2017

# Pomegranate

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## Virtual reality calming young patients

For the first time in WA, virtual reality goggles are helping ease children's anxiety when undergoing blood tests and other procedures at St John of God Health Care hospitals.

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*Hospitality | Compassion | Respect | Justice | Excellence*



**ST JOHN OF GOD**  
Health Care

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**On the cover:** Arini Burdette with a pair  
of virtual reality goggles at St John of God  
Midland Public Hospital.

St John of God Health Care is a  
leading Catholic healthcare provider  
in Australia and New Zealand, with a  
network that includes 23 facilities with  
more than 3,000 hospital beds as well  
as home nursing, disability services  
and social outreach services for people  
experiencing disadvantage.

# GROUP UPDATE

**Once again, another busy year draws to a close.**

This issue of Pomegranate  
welcomes Jenny Levy as our new  
Group Director of Digital and  
Transformation and a number of  
our stories have a technology focus.

Increasing our investment in  
information, technology and  
analytics is one of our five strategic  
priorities. There has been lots  
of good work over the past few  
years, but Jenny's appointment  
is significant because it signals a  
major shift to a more sophisticated  
and coherent strategy, that is  
future-focussed and harnesses all  
the opportunities that technology  
can bring.

I particularly love the story about  
the 3D goggles, helping to alleviate  
anxiety in children in hospitals,  
because it shows two important  
things: Firstly, that technology  
can greatly enhance person-  
centred care, and secondly, that  
we are thinking about new ways  
of doing things and starting to  
build a culture of innovation and  
experimentation. An open and  
exploratory culture is critical  
to fully imagine and embrace  
a digital future.

We are a mission-based  
organisation. Patient care is our  
ultimate purpose and we have a  
number of stories in this edition  
that demonstrate commitment to  
excellence in care, and I invite you  
to read more about some of the  
recent achievements within the St  
John of God Health Care community.




**Dr Michael Stanford**  
Group Chief  
Executive Officer

Although Pomegranate is a seasonal  
publication, the end of the year is  
always a good time to reflect and  
to acknowledge the hard work  
and progress that's been made  
throughout the year.

This year has not been without its  
challenges, with tighter economic  
conditions, but across the board,  
people have risen to the challenge  
and we have delivered great care and  
support to our patients and clients.

I thank our caregivers, doctors,  
volunteers and all those who  
make up the St John of God Health  
Care world for their commitment  
and dedication.

As the sacred feast of Christmas  
draws near, I encourage you all to  
slow down and take some well-  
deserved rest, and I wish you all a  
very safe and happy Christmas. 

# WHAT'S INSIDE?

## INNOVATION

04

Virtual reality calming young patients

06

New 'Command Centre' improves patient journey through surgery

08

Video technology powering recruitment for the St John of God Berwick Hospital

## LEADING THE WAY

10

Perinatal mental health screening tool

## DEVELOPMENTS

12

Multi-million dollar revamp at Geelong complete

## AWARDING EXCELLENCE

14

Zoe Islip takes out CHA's emerging leader award

16

Professor Saunders awarded joint scientist of the year

18

International award for research into foot pressure ulcer prevention in hospital by a Midland podiatrist

20

National recognition for Aboriginal Community Reference Group Member

22

It's gold for our Chair of Trustees

## ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

24

Pastoral Immersion Experience for Notre Dame students

25

Record participation in Catholic school art prize

## OUR PEOPLE

26

New appointment to lead clinical governance across community services

26

Future focus for new Group Director Digital and Transformation

27

Leading the east coast, next challenge for St John of God Health Care executive

## ARTS AND HEALTH

28

Therapeutic power of music gives relief to patients

30

The story behind the photos



*“Tailoring healthcare  
to meet the needs of  
the next generation.”*





# Virtual reality calming young patients

**For the first time in WA, virtual reality goggles are helping ease children's anxiety when undergoing blood tests and other procedures at St John of God Health Care hospitals.**

The virtual reality goggles take children on an underwater adventure while they undergo short procedures such as blood tests - helping to reduce their pain and distress.

St John of God Health Care Group Director of Digital and Transformation Ms Jenny Levy said the latest technology, piloted at St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals' Emergency Department, Children's Ward and Pathology Collection Centre for children aged three to 13, was tailoring healthcare to meet the needs of the next generation.

"This virtual reality pilot program is a first in WA and highlights how we are continuing to transform our hospitals by incorporating technology to enhance the patient experience and meet the demands of future generations," she said.

"Having seen the anxiety needle-based procedures induced in my daughter when she was a child and she still experiences as an adult, I could immediately see the value for patients.

"Children and teenagers are surrounded by technology in their everyday lives.

New technologies, such as these virtual reality goggles, go towards helping them feel more comfortable in our hospitals."

Jenny said working closely with St John of God Health Care Executive Director WA Hospitals Mr John Fogarty and hospital-based clinicians to use virtual reality goggles in clinical practice would ensure the pilot is a continuing success.

John said the goggles were a great example of how technology can enhance the patient experience.

"This technology not only helps children and their parents but could prove to help reduce the time clinicians need to complete certain procedures. This may have a flow on effect to all of our patients who can be seen and treated without delay," he said.

John said planning was underway to extend the use of the virtual reality goggles into other clinical areas and at other St John of God Health Care facilities.

"This is a part of St John of God Health Care's continuing investment in technology to enhance patient experience in our hospitals," he said.

Jenny said initial feedback from the pilot at St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals' Emergency Department, Children's Ward and Pathology Collection Centre was encouraging.

"The impact of the goggles has been immediate. Children who have used the goggles as a part of the pilot are visibly more relaxed and their parents have also reported a reduction in their anxiety as they know their child is not distressed," she said.

Patients experience the underwater adventure through the virtual reality goggles with the patient's head guiding what they see, while their clinician explains what to expect before and during the procedure.

"The experience is designed to help children through the procedure by providing prompts to breathe deeply or to notice when a fish comes to nibble, at the same time as they might notice a needle pricking their arm.

"As parents can also hear these prompts, we have found they also take deeper breaths and are more relaxed." 🎧

**Pictured:** Group Director of Digital and Transformation Ms Jenny Levy with Lisa Burdette and her daughter Arini with the new virtual reality goggles, which are helping to ease anxiety among patients having short procedures at St John of God Health Care hospitals.



## New 'Command Centre' improves patient journey through surgery

**St John of God Health Care has developed and installed new 'clinical command' technology in its St John of God Murdoch Hospital operating theatres, resulting in less waiting time for patients and more time for theatre caregivers to spend on patient care.**

From the new Clinical Command Centre, a patient's progress in their journey through theatres is highly visible and trackable on large digital

screens; from the time the patient is admitted to hospital; through to being prepared for surgery and having their surgery performed; to then being monitored in recovery post-surgery before they are returned to their hospital ward.

As the name suggests, the Clinical Command Centre is the hub that ensures that service and order is maintained, with information feeding into and out of a central location.

The typical journey that a patient takes through theatres is complex and relies on a number of processes working concurrently in order to be seamless.

For a single procedure, a patient may come into contact with around 12 caregivers. There can be up to 120 patients passing through St John of God Murdoch Hospital's 16 theatres on any given day.

From a commanding view of a series of digital screens that fill an entire wall in the Clinical Command Centre, the newly-created role of Perioperative Flow Manager manages and responds to the information displayed to ensure each patient's surgical journey flows smoothly from start to finish.

With this perspective, the Perioperative Flow Manager can trouble-shoot any delays or issues and assign or





**Pictured:** Project lead for the Clinical Command Centre project at St John of God Murdoch Hospital, Ben Talbot stands before digital dashboards that are able to follow each patient's surgical journey.

re-allocate additional caregivers to resolve them accordingly. More than ever before, caregivers and doctors can adapt and respond to changes within the theatres environment quickly, and communicate with their patients effectively to help ease anxiety.

As is the nature of hospitals, emergency situations and last-minute theatre bookings can arise, and the Perioperative Flow Manager has the oversight to be able to book these into the theatres schedule at late notice, while minimising the impact on other theatre activities, and effectively communicate these changes to all impacted areas of theatres as quickly as possible.

The information gathered for the Clinical Command Centre is also displayed on user-friendly and intuitive digital dashboard screens installed throughout the hospital at all stages of the surgical process including admissions, day surgery holding bay, theatres, recovery and on the wards.

Whereas once, more than half a dozen phone calls were made throughout the theatres to track a single patient's progress; now, every caregiver involved in a patient's care can determine their whereabouts at any point in time simply by referring to the dashboards.

The information displayed allows admissions and ward caregivers to

provide anxiously awaiting family with updates on when their loved ones will arrive back to their hospital room.

The new system, which was uniquely designed and developed in-house for St John of God Health Care, will provide advanced analytics on theatre utilisation and allow the hospital to continually improve its service delivery for the benefit of patients, staff and doctors.

The successful implementation of the Clinical Command Centre at St John of God Murdoch Hospital will see this new technology introduced at other divisions within the St John of God Health Care group from 2018. 🍷

# Video technology powering recruitment for St John of God Berwick Hospital

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**St John of God Berwick Hospital is using video interviewing technology, Sonru, to help fill the 200 job opportunities that will be available when the new hospital opens in January 2018.**

With close to 4000 applications received from people wanting to work at the new hospital, the HR & Recruitment team looked to technology as a robust solution to ensure the best people were appointed to join the Berwick team.

St John of God Berwick Hospital Recruitment Coordinator Melanie McTaggart said the successful recruitment campaign meant that more than 500 first round interviews were required – with video interview technology Sonru identified as the best way to shortlist candidates.

“This technology proved to be incredibly beneficial not only for our managers who could review the video interviews around their busy schedules, including via their phone, but also for the candidates themselves,” Melanie said.

St John of God Berwick Hospital Chief Executive Officer Lisa Norman said the technology enabled the hospital to be more agile in their recruitment process and ensured the best candidates were engaged.


“Getting the right people into our new \$120 million hospital is really important as they are the people who will be delivering care on a day-to-day basis and build our culture and reputation in the community,” she said.

“Having such an agile recruitment process has meant we have a talented and experienced talent pool to ensure we employ the best person for each position.

“The video interviews are accessible for two years, which allows our managers to retain a talent pool of candidates for future recruitment opportunities.”

Melanie said the technology was not a barrier for the majority of candidates, with more than 84 per cent of people who were invited to complete a video interview successfully doing so.

“We were able to use this technology for a wide range of candidates, not just the tech savvy generation, which was important because more than a third of the people we interviewed were aged between 45 and 54,” she said.

“It also wasn’t limited to our administrative roles, with people interviewed for positions as varied as cooks, midwives, physiotherapists, nurses and concierges.” 

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***“Getting the right people into our new \$120 million hospital is really important as they are the people who will be delivering care on a day-to-day basis and build our culture and reputation in the community,”***

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Sonru video interviews at St John of God Berwick Hospital:

**500 INTERVIEWS**  
*completed*

**83% OF SURVEYED CANDIDATES**  
*were either very satisfied or satisfied with their interview experience*

**91% OF CANDIDATES**  
*completed their interview at home*

**85% OF SURVEYED CANDIDATES**  
*would complete another video interview*

**Pictured:** Director of Workforce Eastern Hospitals, Elizabeth Spaul and St John of God Berwick Hospital then A/CEO and current Director of Nursing, Lisa Evans were able to use Sonru to review video interviews around their busy schedules.

# Perinatal mental health screening tool

A mental health screening tool, developed by St John of God Health Care researchers, has been included in new national guidelines designed to help improve the emotional wellbeing of Australian pregnant women and new mums.

The Antenatal Risk Questionnaire (ANRQ) developed by St John of God Health Care's Perinatal and Women's Mental Health Research Unit Director Professor Marie-Paule Austin and her team has been added to the Australian Clinical Practice Guidelines for Mental Health Care in the Perinatal Period.

"Including the tool in the guidelines means the 300,000 or so women having a baby in Australia each year will have their emotional wellbeing checked by clinicians during and after pregnancy as part of their routine maternity and postnatal care," Marie-Paule said.

"Screening a woman's emotional wellbeing during this time is particularly important because about 10 per cent of Australian women will develop a depressive or anxiety disorder in pregnancy and the first year after birth, often affecting their intimate relationship, parenting confidence and bonding with their baby.

"This also means women who are at increased risk of developing emotional health issues, including those associated with domestic

violence and alcohol and drug abuse, can be offered further assessment and early intervention as needed."

Marie-Paule further said the Commonwealth Government's recent decision to fund depression screening and psychosocial assessment through Medicare for private obstetricians and general practitioners, demonstrated a major commitment to the policy and guidelines she has led, along with her national colleagues.

"The ANRQ tool is already used by many Australian perinatal clinicians and powers the Bupa Mummatters online self-assessment tool that helps mums track their emotional wellbeing," she said.

"Including it in the guidelines and funding screening through Medicare will mean many more women are screened using the tool."

St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford said as a leading maternity hospital provider, St John of God Health Care was focused on developing greater understanding of the issues that impact on women's wellbeing during and after pregnancy.

"This research, led by Marie-Paule Austin at St John of God Burwood Hospital, shows how we can have an impact not only on women in our care but on the wider community as well," he said.

"As a leading healthcare provider delivering more than 13,000 babies each year, we believe we have a community responsibility to continue to conduct meaningful research that helps identify ways to improve health and wellbeing of those in our communities and we look forward to understanding how the extended use of the ANRQ will benefit women and help clinicians."

Marie-Paule said it was rewarding for her team to see the ANRQ help more women than ever before after years of research, including her St John of God Health Care colleague Dr Nicole Reilly's doctoral work, showing a lack of screening for women delivering privately.



*“About 10 per cent of Australian women will develop a depressive or anxiety disorder in pregnancy and the first year after birth.”*



**Pictured:** Professor Marie-Paule Austin's research is contributing to a greater understanding of the issues that impact on women's wellbeing during and after pregnancy.

“Dr Reilly’s research, published in 2013, directly influenced the Commonwealth Government’s decision to fund the depression screening and psychosocial assessments through Medicare,” she said.

“For our research team, it is enormously satisfying to know that independent expert clinicians and methodologists assessed the ANRQ as the best practice tool to screen for perinatal mental health issues in women.

“It is even more rewarding to know that our years of research will benefit hundreds of thousands of women each year who will not only have their risks identified but be able to get early intervention so they can enjoy their pregnancy and newborn baby.” 🍷

# Multi-million dollar revamp at Geelong complete

**The blessing and opening of the Bridget Clancy Wing at St John of God Geelong Hospital in August marked the completion of the hospital's latest \$21 million upgrade and represented the final stage of an almost \$100 million investment in new facilities and services during the past five years.**

The \$21 million project included a new 12-bed Intensive Care Unit, a 16-bed Cardiac Care Unit, an Education and Research Centre, expanded caregiver amenities and a new cardiac surgery service to serve the communities of western Victoria.

The Cardiac Care Unit has enabled the hospital to provide critical support for patients who have experienced acute cardiac conditions including heart attack, heart arrhythmia, heart infections and supports the new cardiac surgery service.

St John of God Geelong Hospital Chief Executive Officer Stephen Roberts said the redevelopment had delivered infrastructure and services to help kick start the local economy following years of significant challenge.

"Adding the new Cardiac Care Unit, which features the latest technology and facilities to aid recovery alongside our brand new 12-bed Intensive Care Unit, means that people who are acutely unwell can get the care they need close to home," he said.

"These two units play critical roles in supporting patients who require complex care after major surgery or life-threatening conditions and together ensure the best possible clinical interventions are available to patients in Geelong."

The Bridget Clancy Wing was officially opened by the St John of God Health Care Chair of Trustees Eva Skira and St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Dr Michael Stanford, with the blessing conducted by Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Bishop Mark Edwards.

Michael said the redevelopment and upgrades at the hospital highlighted the group's commitment to ensuring the Geelong community had access to quality health care right on their doorstep.

"St John of God Geelong Hospital is the largest regional not-for-profit hospital in Australia," he said.

"With the additional units now open, we are grateful to be able to contribute in such a positive way to the future healthcare needs of Geelong and continue the legacy of providing hospital care from this site which goes back more than 100 years." 🍷

**Pictured:** (L-R) - GCEO Dr Michael Stanford, SJGHC Chair of Trustees Ms Eva Skira, SJG Geelong Hospital Director of Nursing Donna Walter, SJG Geelong Hospital Director of Finance Andrew Lovick, Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Bishop Mark Edwards, SJG Geelong Hospital Director of Corporate and Service Development Taanya Widdicombe, SJG Geelong Hospital Director of Mission Integration, Michael Trainor, SJG Geelong Hospital CEO Stephen Roberts.



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*“These two units play critical roles in supporting patients who require complex care after major surgery or life-threatening conditions and together ensure the best possible clinical interventions are available to patients in Geelong.”*

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# Zoe Islip takes out CHA's emerging leader award

St John of God Health Care Maternity Reference Group Coordinator Zoe Islip was announced the winner of Catholic Health Australia's Emerging Leader Award in October, recognising her leadership role in delivering excellence in midwifery services.

Zoe works across 11 St John of God Health Care hospitals to support nursing and midwifery managers to improve structures and processes that provide safe and high quality patient care.

Group Director Nursing Services Cynthia Dowell congratulated Zoe and acknowledged the leadership attributes that contributed to her win.

"Zoe has courage, commitment and skills in facilitation and team building and has influenced organisation-wide improvement in the way we care for mothers, babies and families," Cynthia said.

"She facilitated the development and deployment of St John of God Health Care's Obstetrics and Midwifery Strategy, which included establishing a multi-disciplinary steering committee of obstetricians, paediatricians, neonatologists and midwives across three states.

"This committee has identified opportunities for quality improvement including clinical engagement in implementing initiatives.

"Zoe is a fine example of an emerging leader. I have no doubt she will make a significant contribution to healthcare in the future."

In response to the award win Zoe said, "Each day that goes by I feel so very lucky to be part of the midwifery profession. To receive the Emerging Leader Award from Catholic Health Australia was an exciting and rewarding experience personally and for the amazing team that I work with across St John of God Health Care.

"The scholarship funds generously provided will assist with my attendance at an international obstetric conference and to further my healthcare leadership studies," Zoe said.

Zoe played a pivotal role in an organisation-wide deployment of the K2 Guardian electronic fetal monitoring system into all of our birth suites.



***"Zoe has courage, commitment and skills in facilitation and team building and has influenced organisation-wide improvement in the way we care for mothers, babies and families."***





The system allows obstetricians to remotely monitor the wellbeing of the baby in 'real-time' and collaborate on decision making with the midwife at the bedside.

Zoe led the development of an education program to support the introduction of the new system, which so far has seen 380 midwives from St John of God Health Care participate in the RANZCOG Fetal Surveillance Education Program.

Zoe began her career as a graduate nurse at St John of God Subiaco Hospital, developed an early interest in midwifery and went on to complete her training. She continued to further her skills to take up roles in lactation, labour and delivery, antenatal and postnatal care and education.

This commitment to education set her on a leadership journey with opportunities to act in management positions in midwifery and obstetrics at St John of God Subiaco Hospital.

**Pictured:** Catholic Health Australia's Emerging Leader Award winner Zoe Islip with patient, Aleasha Franetovich who is pregnant with twins and St John of God Subiaco Hospital midwife Lisa Black.

In 2013 Zoe was recognised for her commitment to excellence in midwifery and was appointed to the role she currently fills as the Maternity Reference Group Coordinator across St John of God Health Care. 🍷





*“Winning this award is  
a real win for recognising  
the importance  
of clinical medical  
research in science.”*

# Professor Saunders awarded joint scientist of the year

**St John of God Subiaco Hospital Director Breast Cancer Research Professor Christobel Saunders was named the joint recipient of 2017 Premier's Science Award for Scientist of the Year.**

The prominent cancer surgeon and internationally regarded cancer researcher has a particular research interest in breast cancer, including clinical trials of new treatments, supportive care and translational and health services research that have led to better treatments and improved survival for people with cancer.

Christobel said she values the award and how it highlights the excellent research being undertaken in Western Australia, which is having a global impact.

"Winning this award is a real win for recognising the importance of clinical medical research in science," Christobel said.

"It also highlights how we have such great collaborative teams in WA, which not only can do world class research, but help change the way we practice medicine by implementing this research - and so improving the lives of people affected by cancer.

"Certainly from my point of view this is not an award to an individual but to the team that do cancer research here in WA and across Australia."

St John of God Subiaco Hospital Chief Executive Officer Professor Shirley

Bowen said she was delighted that Christobel had been recognised for the incredible work she is undertaking in breast cancer research and assisting the lives of people with cancer.

"The hospitals' breast cancer research group is thriving under Christobel's strong leadership and skills," Shirley said.

"Christobel has greatly expanded the research undertaken by our breast cancer research unit, which now includes the full spectrum of breast cancer, from prevention through to survivorship."

Christobel is a consultant surgeon at St John of God Subiaco, Royal Perth and Fiona Stanley Hospitals, a Professor of Surgical Oncology and head of The University of Western Australia's School of Surgery.

Christobel received the Scientist of the Year award alongside Professor Harvey Millar from the UWA's School of Molecular Sciences and National Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology.

The awards were established by the State Government in 2002 to honour the outstanding achievements of WA's science and innovation community. 🍷

## NEW PROGRAM TO PLACE WA AT FOREFRONT OF CANCER CARE

A ground-breaking program set to revolutionise cancer care in Western Australia and place WA at the forefront of efforts to improve patient outcomes has received a significant boost thanks to an initial \$750,000 grant from the Cancer Research Trust (CRT).

The program is being led by St John of God Subiaco Hospital's Director of Breast Cancer Research Unit Professor Christobel Saunders and will be undertaken at St John of God Subiaco Hospital, St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals and other facilities.

Known as the Continuous Improvement in Care – Cancer Project, it is based on the emerging concept of values-based health care delivery, which encourages continuous improvement in value and structure of care.

The program will also involve The University of Western Australia, Murdoch University, Curtin University and Notre Dame University.

The CRT grant will be provided over a five year period, with a possible extension for another four years. In addition other supporters are expected to provide about \$250,000. 🍷

**Pictured:** St John of God Subiaco Hospital Director Breast Cancer Research, Professor Christobel Saunders celebrated for her excellence in breast cancer research.



# International award for research into foot pressure ulcer prevention in hospital by a Midland podiatrist

**Researching the best way to reduce the risk of patients developing pressure injuries on their heels as they lie in hospital beds has earned a St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals podiatrist an international research award.**

Senior Podiatrist Jo Scheepers' research identified that enhancements to the current guidelines would better identify a patient's risk of developing pressure injuries, also known as ulcers or bedsores, on their feet while in hospital.

"The results of my research show there is an opportunity to enhance how healthcare professionals assess the risk of patients developing pressure injuries on their feet," Jo said.

"This could lead to more patients having prevention strategies put in place during their hospital stay to reduce their risk."

Jo said the results could greatly assist patient recovery.

"Patients with existing foot conditions and risk factors can be more susceptible to getting pressure injuries on their heels in hospital and, if they do, the injuries can take a very long time to heal or can become infected and possibly result in leg amputation," she said.

Current guidelines do not require health care professionals to specifically consider the risk of a patient developing pressure injuries on their feet when assessing their risk of developing a pressure injury.

"The results of the research clearly show that foot risk should be included as part of the holistic pressure injury risk assessment," she said.

Completing the research as a part of her Masters in Podiatric Medicine at The University of WA, Jo won the 2017 Journal of Tissue Viability and Journal of Clinical Biomechanics Award. She presented her findings at the European Pressure Injury Conference in Belfast in September.

"The opportunity to present at a key note session at an international conference was fantastic and hopefully can influence care worldwide," she said.

"I feel very honoured to be given this award and it is lovely recognition of all the hard work I did completing my Masters while working full time."

Jo's recommendations will be included in St John of God Health Care's training for nurses and soon-to-be released best practice policy guidelines and updated pressure injury risk assessment form.

St John of God Midland Public Hospital CEO Michael Hogan said it was great to see Ms Scheepers' research recognised at the international level.

"We know that pressure injuries not only have an effect on a patient's hospital stay, but also their ongoing quality of life, and they are often preventable," he said.

"It is great to see Jo's research is helping enhance care not only at Midland but across St John of God Health Care." 🍷

**Pictured:** St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals' Senior Podiatrist Jo Scheepers contributing to excellence in patient care through her research.





***“There is an opportunity to enhance how healthcare professionals assess the risk of patients developing pressure injuries.”***

# National recognition for Aboriginal Community Reference Group Member

Dianne Ryder, a member of St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals' Aboriginal Community Reference Group, has earned national recognition for her commitment to improving the lives of Indigenous people.

Dianne, a Noongar Elder, was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent National NAIDOC Awards in recognition of her contribution to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities across Australia, and in particular across Perth and Midland.

“One of my proudest achievements would be running the Swan Aboriginal Community Christmas Party which is run entirely by volunteers and last year saw more than 900 people come together as a community at Midvale Oval,” Dianne said.

“This event is where I see and where everyone can feel a real sense of reconciliation.”

Dianne, who worked for 21 years in the Australian Army, was recognised for her role as President of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans Association of WA, as a community

outreach worker and for her commitment to the Swan Alliance's Communities for Children initiative.

Dianne said now being a part of the St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals' Aboriginal Community Reference Group was a continuation of her ongoing commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people living in Midland.

“This stems from my involvement with Moort Boodjari Mia, a service which supports young Aboriginal women during their pregnancy and makes a huge difference to their lives and their families,” she said.

“For me, getting the right assistance for young Aboriginal mums means the kids will have the right start in life and it is wonderful to see this program continuing and supported at the hospital.”

St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals Director of Aboriginal Health Christine Clinch said it was fantastic to see Dianne's commitment and work recognised at the national level.

***“For me, getting the right assistance for young Aboriginal mums means the kids will have the right start in life.”***





"I congratulate Dianne on her achievements and it is great to see her recognised for the important work she has done and continues to do in Midland and beyond," Christine said.

"Dianne's experience, knowledge and leadership is truly valued and we are extremely privileged to have her on our Aboriginal Community Reference Group where she is helping enhance connections between the hospital and the local Aboriginal community." 🙏

**Pictured:** St John of God Midland Public Hospital Aboriginal Community Reference Group Member, Di Ryder, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award National NAIDOC Award by the National NAIDOC Committee.





*“As a director you never lead on your own, there is always a range of people alongside you whose commitment and expertise enable an organisation to achieve its goals.”*

# *It's gold for our* Chair of Trustees

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**The Australia Institute of Company Directors (AICD) WA recently awarded current St John of God Health Care Chair of Trustees and former board member Eva Skira their prestigious Gold Medal Award.**

The award honours the contribution Eva has made to the wider WA community over her entire career, which includes roles at St John of God Health Care, as well as in financial and other sectors, and as a board member with prominent WA businesses.

Eva said she felt honoured and humbled to receive the award and recognition from her peers.

“For me this is reaffirmation of the work I have been able to do, alongside my current and former colleagues. It is not just recognition of the contribution I have made but is also recognition for all the people who have shaped, influenced and supported me throughout my roles,” she said.

“As a director you never lead on your own, there are always a range of people alongside you whose commitment and expertise enable an organisation to achieve its goals. I am grateful to all individuals for their support.”

AICD State Council President and fellow St John of God Health Care Trustee Frank Cooper said the Gold Medal Award was one of the highest awards presented by the AICD and importantly recognised the contribution Eva had made over the long term.

“We are delighted to recognise Eva with the 2017 Gold Medal Award as she has made a strong contribution in each of her roles and reflects the high standards of governance and ethics the Institute seeks to inspire in all its members,” he said.

Eva’s roles at St John of God Health Care, which span almost 19 years, include her current position as Chair of Trustees, deputy Chair of Trustees, St John of God Health Care deputy Chair of the Board and St John of God Health Care Board Member.

“I have been a director for some 24 years of a number of organisations and St John of God Health Care has been a big part of that,” Eva said.

“I believe the most important aspect of my role as a director is to bring stewardship, developed through good leadership, governance and strategy, to the organisations I am a part of.

“I also think it is incredibly important to get alignment across all levels of the organisation, making sure everyone is facing the same direction and, for St John of God Health Care, that is ensuring everything we do witnesses our Mission.” 🍷

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**AWARDED BY AICD**  
*the 2017 Gold Medal Award  
for her strong contribution  
in each of her roles*

**24 YEARS**  
*working as a Director,  
including 19 years at St  
John of God Health Care*

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# Pastoral Immersion Experience for Notre Dame students

**A new partnership with The University of Notre Dame Australia is providing pastoral care students with real life experience in our hospitals as a part of their studies.**

The partnership enables students studying a Graduate Certificate in Liberal Arts (Pastoral Placement) to complete their practicum placement, also known as an immersion experience, at any St John of God Health Care hospital in Western Australia or New South Wales.

The Graduate Certificate Liberal Arts (Pastoral Placement) started in February 2017. St John of God Health Care Group Manager Pastoral Services Eleanor Roderick said the Graduate Certificate in Liberal Arts provided a great opportunity to build awareness of pastoral care as a professional calling.

“The Graduate Certificate also offers current caregivers and potential future caregivers an opportunity to obtain tertiary qualifications in this area,” Eleanor said.

“The Pastoral Placement unit within the certificate gives students the opportunity to experience the depth and diversity of pastoral ministry in a Catholic health care setting, develop their pastoral awareness and engage in



the experience of reflective practice to support their skill development.”

One of The University of Notre Dame’s founding students of the Graduate Certificate is St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals’ Pastoral Care Associate Sarah Simpson.

Sarah, who has also completed the Clinical Pastoral Education program also offered by St John of God Health Care, started at St John of God Midland Private and Public Hospitals in November 2015 after being drawn to the role by her desire to make a difference.

She said her experiences so far had helped her gain a deeper appreciation of the role pastoral practitioners in

hospitals and was already starting to influence her role on an everyday level.

“One of the joys of working in this hospital is the sheer diversity of situations – the Emergency Department is very different to a medical ward, surgical is different to chemotherapy,” she said.

“As pastoral practitioners, we often don’t know what specific impact we have on people’s lives. Our role is to stand with the person in the suffering, acknowledging the pain and allowing them a safe space to vent, mourn, or just to be, as well as providing practical support if required, and often we don’t get to see them past that.



## RECORD PARTICIPATION IN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ART PRIZE

With the support of St John of God Health Care, the 2017 Angelico Exhibition was open to Catholic primary school students for the first time, enabling more students from across Western Australia to participate in the visual art prize.

The Angelico Exhibition, a Catholic Arts event, has been available to Catholic secondary school students for 24 years and this year's event attracted a record number of 175 entries from 31 schools into the secondary exhibition. The inclusion of primary school students saw participation soar with an additional 119 entries submitted from 23 Catholic primary schools.

St John of God Health Care Visual Art Scholarships were awarded to Fraser Williams, Year 11, from Ursula Frayne Catholic College in Victoria Park and Allanah Glatzel, Year 6, from Assumption Catholic Primary School in Mandurah.

Fraser's work is considered vibrant and across the multiple works he submitted to the prize he displayed a natural energy for his artistic endeavours.

Allanah expresses herself through her artwork and enjoys making thoughtful and personal gifts of art. The scholarship will assist Allanah to continue to grow and learn as an artist through participation in workshops and to purchase new equipment to further her passion. 🍷

**Pictured:** St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals' Pastoral Care Associate Sarah Simpson is one of the University of Notre Dame's founding students of the Graduate Certificate.

"However, sometimes people come back and share. One such instance was when a couple experienced a miscarriage at 18 weeks gestation. I was able to facilitate them to have some time with their daughter at home and the mother ended up coming back to the hospital to express her gratitude."

For further information about the program and how to apply, please visit: <https://sjog.org.au/working-with-us/pastoral-practitioner-education/pastoral-supervised-immersion-experience>. 🍷

**Pictured:** Winners of the 2017 Angelico Exhibition, St John of God Health Care Scholarship Fraser Williams and Allanah Glatzel, with Archbishop Timothy Costelloe and St John of God Health Care Art Curator Connie Petrillo.



# New appointment to lead clinical governance across community services



**St John of God Health Care has appointed Dr Andrew Yeates as Director Medical Services for its Community Services directorate.**

Executive Director Community Services Kevin Taylor said the new role was created following changes to the structure of St John of God Health Care’s outreach and disability services. “Our Community Services directorate was established in February and

includes intellectual disability services delivered by St John of God Accord in Victoria and a range of community services provided by St John of God Social Outreach across three states, plus a capacity building program at the national hospital in Dili, Timor-Leste,” Kevin said. Andrew is a UK trained medical practitioner with extensive medical, strategy and business experience. Prior to entering medical administration, he was Country Medical Director for GlaxoSmithKline Australia.

He joined St John of God Health Care in 2012 as Director Strategic Development Perth Northern Hospitals, where he developed strategic and operational plans for St John of God Subiaco and Mount Lawley Hospitals, as well as St John of God Subiaco Hospital’s clinical services plan. In the new role Andrew will drive clinical standards, practice and governance across Accord and Social Outreach. His immediate task is to implement a clinical governance management framework to support outreach services. 🍷



## FUTURE FOCUS FOR NEW GROUP DIRECTOR DIGITAL AND TRANSFORMATION

**St John of God Health Care has appointed Ms Jenny Levy as the Group Director Digital and Transformation, a new position that is responsible for driving digital innovation.**

The new role comes in response to the rapid advancements in digital and artificial intelligence in health care which is resulting in new methods of diagnosis and treatment. Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford said Jenny would be a transformational leader, responsible

for executing digital change across St John of God Health Care. “The challenge we face is that we are getting left behind in digital technology and innovation, competing not only with other private hospitals but new government facilities as well, therefore Jenny’s role is focused on future proofing St John of God Health Care,” Michael said. Jenny, who started with St John of God Health Care in July, said she was focused on driving the future digital vision of the organisation and incorporating technical advances into our services. 🍷



# *Leading the east coast, next challenge* for St John of God Health Care executive

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**Former St John of God Health Care Group Director of Finance Bryan Pyne has been recently appointed as the new Executive Director Eastern Hospitals.**

With 19 years' experience with St John of God Health Care, Bryan started his new role as Executive Director Eastern Hospitals in late September with an eye to enhancing the services on Australia's east coast.

St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford said Bryan's experience as Group Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer at St John of God Subiaco Hospital made him perfectly suited to leading the eastern divisions.

"Bryan is of course very well-known and highly regarded within the group and the broader Catholic health sector," Michael said.

"In his role as Group Director of Finance Bryan has significantly assisted our growth through merger and acquisition, innovative commercial deals and financial modelling for both greenfield and brownfield developments.

"Furthermore as one of the originators of our performance measurement system he developed key resources

and moved us to a highly analytical capability in terms of productivity, efficiency and revenue maximisation."

Bryan said he was excited about the growth opportunities in Victoria, particularly looking forward to the new \$120 million St John of God Berwick Hospital which will open in January.

"Our services are going a long way to meeting the needs of the communities we serve, however with new operators and improved public health care facilities, we need to be ever vigilant to ensure our offerings meet our patient's and funders expectations.

"This not only means investment in facilities, which we have done over the last few years, but also ensuring our services are meeting demand and investing in technology to enhance the patient experience.

"My first months in this role have been engaging with the hospital management teams and developing a plan to ensure all of our services are working effectively and efficiently." 🍷



# Therapeutic power of music gives relief to patients

**Patients with Parkinson’s disease and other chronic illnesses are benefiting greatly from the St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital’s Music for Wellness program.**

The program began in 2016 following a pilot project conducted in collaboration with the University of Western Australia and Musica Viva, with results showing patients were happier after they participated in music.

Singing and song writing workshops with Musician in Residence, Colleen Rees, are now conducted weekly as a way to holistically improve patient care.

“The program provides a social environment for participants to interact with other people who are going through similar experiences, and to share a positive, stimulating activity together,” Colleen said.

“Some of the people are really struggling in their personal life and with accepting their situation, but music has a way of letting people relax.

“It unites people and triggers memories that instil a feeling of happiness.

“It’s been an absolute joy to watch the confidence build in participants and witness friendships develop within the group.”

Speech Pathologist Senior Clinician and Music for Wellness Coordinator Jenny Shurdington said the program could improve physical, communication, and emotional skills of individuals living with Parkinson’s disease, as well as those with respiratory issues, chronic pain and other debilitating illnesses.

“Consistent interaction within the close-knit community of the program helps to combat social isolation and depression, while empowering participants with a sense of possibility and achievement,” Jenny said.


“Participating in the program helps boost confidence levels, transforms attitudes about living with a chronic illness, and helps manage some of the symptoms associated with their condition.

“Patients often come in feeling down or a little flat, but after participating in music and singing with their friends they leave feeling uplifted, happy and engaged.”

Parkinson’s patient Nola Delaney was recommended to try the program by her neurologist and has loved attending the weekly sessions.

“What I like about Music for Wellness is the happiness of it all. Everybody’s happy and enjoying it. It makes you feel good,” Nola said.

“I have met some great people who share the same complaints as me, so I don’t feel so isolated, and made some good friends who I now catch up with outside of the program.

“I love this program because of the confidence it has given me and the enjoyment I’m still getting out of life. Even though things might be bad, there’s always good on the other side, the music helps with it all.” 

***“It’s been an absolute joy to watch the confidence build in participants and witness friendships develop within the group.”***

**Pictured:** Music for Wellness participant Nola Delaney sports a smile after catching up with good friends and getting involved in a singing and song writing workshop.







# The story behind the photos

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Seeing the intense emotions experienced first-hand as the new Nurse Manager for St John of God Bunbury Hospital's Renal Unit, Kerry Smith was inspired to make the unit feel more welcoming. The results are breathtaking.

When Kerry was appointed Nurse Manager of the newly expanded Renal Unit in February 2013 – the walls were bright, but bare.

“As the new manager, I started to get to know the patients well as I saw them come for their treatments week after week and soon realised why they shared a special bond with their nurses,” Kerry said.

“I had developed a real admiration for the fortitude demonstrated by these patients and a genuine sadness for their ongoing situation. Here they were, week after week, most several times a week fronting up to have their fistula’s connected to their dialysis machine. And once connected, there they stayed for approximately three hours.”

With a budget still available for art, an idea formed in Kerry’s mind which slowly took shape after the local camera club jumped on board.

Kerry sought submissions from caregivers, patients and the wider community for digital photographs of Western Australia – fauna, flora, landscapes – which would be mounted on aluminium so it could be easily cleaned and moved.

The 30 best submissions showcasing some of the best images from around WA now adorn the unit’s walls.

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***“The resultant images are spectacular. We hope they provide those special patients with a little brightness in their lives.”***

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“My aim was to choose photographs patients could look at and lose themselves in, seeing something different each time and perhaps forgetting just for a moment that they were hooked up to a machine for many hours of their lives,” she said.





St John of God Bunbury Hospital Chief Executive Officer Mark Grime said the photographs not only lifted spirits in the unit, but also attracted caregivers and community members to see the great imagery.

"The resultant images are spectacular. We hope they provide those special

patients with a little brightness in their lives," Mark said.

"I congratulate Kerry and the entire renal unit team on this initiative. It is great to see how a spark of an idea can be developed with support of the community to enhance the patient experience." 🍷

**Pictured:** St John of God Bunbury Hospital's Renal Unit Nurse Manager, Kerry Smith and St John of God Bunbury Hospital CEO, Mark Grime admiring artwork within St John of God Bunbury Hospital's Renal Unit.



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