

Autumn | 2018

Pomegranate

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A new hospital for eastern Victoria

The new St John of God Berwick
Hospital meets increasing
demand from day one.

Hospitality | Compassion | Respect | Justice | Excellence



ST JOHN OF GOD
Health Care

HEAD OFFICE

St John of God Health Care
Ground floor, 12 Kings Park Road
West Perth, WA 6005

PO Box 508, West Perth, WA 6872

Tel (08) 9213 3636
Fax (08) 9213 3668
Email info@sjog.org.au

Editorial / St John of God Health Care
Group Marketing. Editorial enquiries
to rsvp.marketing@sjog.org.au

Design / Grindstone Creative

Cover photography /
Clarisse Photography

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On the cover: *The first baby born at the
new St John of God Berwick Hospital Andy
with his mum Chloe.*

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

Calling time after 16 years' at the helm.

After 16 years' leading St John of God Health Care, I have decided to step down from the helm of the organisation as I look to pursue a non-executive director career.

My final day was 21 March 2018.

While I have called time on my executive career and enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on the progress St John of God Health Care has made to become the largest Catholic sector hospital services provider and the third largest non-government hospital operator in Australia, I am acutely aware that the organisation continues to grow and develop.

In this edition of Pomegranate we celebrate the opening of our newest hospital St John of God Berwick Hospital, which is already helping meet the local health care needs in eastern Victoria. The timing of this is remarkable as the old hospital in Gibb Street was actually the first hospital purchase I undertook as Group Chief Executive Officer back in 2003.

I love the story about the new smart house we are building in Melbourne which highlights the role we can play in providing disability care in the community and integrating the bricks and mortar developments with our expanding focus on digital innovation.

Over my 16 year tenure with the organisation the one thing that I was always keen to focus on enhancing patient care. Bringing our patient admissions process online



Dr Michael Stanford
Group Chief
Executive Officer

goes a long way to improving the customer journey which in turn ensures we are able to provide the best hospitality to our patients.

A big congratulations to the inaugural winners of the 2017 Tony Howarth Awards of Leadership in Health and Safety whose initiatives to improve our environment for all are detailed in this edition.

It is with a touch of sadness but also pride that I sign off this last edition of Pomegranate as Group Chief Executive Officer. To see the many initiatives I have helped guide, support and develop unfold gives me the confidence that I leave St John of God Health Care in good shape. I will miss working with such a fantastic group of committed, caring and skilled people. 🍷

WHAT'S INSIDE?

BIDDING FAREWELL

04

Group CEO bids farewell after 16 years

DEVELOPMENTS

06

New Berwick hospital already in demand

08

Building the house of the future for people with disabilities

09

Horizon House brings specialist support to young Bendigo mums

INNOVATION

10

Patient focus for new online admissions

12

Tiny pacemaker offers latest in technology

AWARDING EXCELLENCE

14

Innovation and motivation recognised in inaugural safety awards

16

Services to health recognised in Australia Day awards

17

Developing doctors help developing countries

RESEARCH

18

BRCA to the future

20

Partnering for action on perinatal mental health

OUR PEOPLE

22

New faces add business and spiritual leadership to governance

23

Building strong Catholic leaders

Group CEO bids farewell after 16 years

After adding 12 hospitals to the St John of God Health Care group, increasing hospital bed numbers from 1,300 to 3,300, overseeing development of our community services and more than tripling the number of caregivers during his time as Group Chief Executive Officer, Dr Michael Stanford has announced his departure from St John of God Health Care.

Michael was appointed to the role of Group CEO in 2002 and under his stewardship, St John of God Health Care has grown significantly, both in its clinical services and in its focus on Social Outreach.

It has grown from the 80th largest private company in Australia to the 20th and has become the largest Catholic sector hospital services provider and the third largest non-Government hospital operator in Australia.

Michael said that it had been a great honour and privilege, as well as a career highlight, to be the Group CEO of St John of God Health Care.

“While a significant portion of my legacy has been on bricks and mortar development, I’m most proud to have led an organisation that has focused strongly on excellence in clinical care and provided an holistic, person-centred approach,” he said.

“It’s been a wonderful 16 years and I thank my group executive team and all our caregivers who make St John of God Health Care such a great institution.”

Michael has been an advocate for a greater role for Catholic healthcare involvement in public health. Under his leadership St John of God Health Care opened the first Catholic run public hospital in Western Australia, St John of God Midland Public Hospital, which has been embraced by the community it serves and is providing an outstanding service.

St John of God Health Care Board Chairman Tony Howarth thanked Dr Stanford for his leadership and outstanding contribution to St John of God Health Care and said he was leaving the organisation in excellent shape.

“Under Michael’s leadership SJGHC has become a major player in the national health sector,” he said.

“Michael has always placed Mission at the heart of all decision making. As a result St John of God Health Care is now servicing a substantially larger number of patients and clients across Australia, New Zealand and Timor Leste.”

Michael’s last day was 21 March 2018 and he will now embark on a non-executive director career. 🍷



Dr Michael Stanford's TIMELINE AS GROUP CEO

2002

Dr Michael Stanford starts as Chief Executive Officer at St John of God Health Care

2003

Acquired St John of God Berwick Hospital Gibb Street

2004

Bought St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital

2005

Added Pinelodge Clinic, Bendigo Hospital and Pathcare Pathology



2007

Merged with the Brothers of St John of God services which added Burwood and Richmond hospitals, Hauora Trust and Accord

2008

Established Health Choices

2014

Acquired St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital

2015

Bought Hawkesbury District Health Service and opened St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals

2018

Opened the new St John of God Berwick Hospital (Kangan Drive)

Dr Michael Stanford's LASTING LEGACY

- Since 2002 St John of God Health Care has grown from the 80th largest private company in Australia to the 20th in 2018
- Since 2002, it has become the largest Catholic sector hospital services provider and the third largest non-government hospital operator in Australia
- Since 2002, 12 hospitals/health services have been added to the Group
- Increased the number of beds from 1,358 beds in 2002 to 3,301 beds in 2018 – that is a 143% increase
- Nearly all pre-existing facilities added more beds
- Built two brand new hospitals – St John of God Berwick Hospital (opened in 2018) and St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals (opened in 2015)
- Incorporated arts into our health care services, by forming the WA Arts and Health Consortium in 2016 and expanding our art collection from 103 works to 700 pieces over the last 5 years
- In 2017, St John of God Health Care contributed more than \$19.7 million towards Social Outreach services
- In 2002, there were eight divisions of St John of God Health Care - seven hospitals and Pathology. Now, in 2018, there are 22 divisions of St John of God Health Care – 18 hospitals, Accord, Social Outreach, Hauora Trust and Health Choices)
- In 2010, Michael was named WA Citizen of the Year for Industry and Commerce in recognition of his leadership in growing St John of God Health Care
- In 2018, Michael was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the health sector through executive roles, to tertiary education, and in the community of Western Australia.

New Berwick hospital already in demand

Since opening on Thursday 18 January 2018 the new St John of God Berwick Hospital on Kangan Drive has been embraced by patients, caregivers and doctors.

When the first patients arrived at the new \$120 million St John of God Berwick Hospital at 8.00am on 18 January 2018, the wards were filled with excited caregivers ready to start the new era of healthcare for the region.

The first patients, 33 in total including four newborn babies from the special care nursery, swapped the small community hospital facilities for the modern three-storey hospital located just off Monash Freeway.

St John of God Berwick Hospital Chief Executive Officer Lisa Norman said the demand for the new hospital, which featured more patient beds and new services, was immediately clear.

“In the days leading up to the hospital move slowed our services, but once the move was complete we went back to business as usual welcoming our first elective surgery patients within five days,” she said.

“Two weeks after opening, the hospital was already busier than projected and

on several occasions we reached the hospital’s overnight bed capacity.

“This is a sharp increase in demand given the former hospital on Gibb Street had a maximum of 55 overnight beds.”

St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford said the initial success of the hospital, which was just under three years in the making, showed it would go a long way to meeting the growing needs of Victoria’s eastern corridor.

“We believe this new hospital will not just serve Casey and Cardinia but will serve the people of Gippsland as it represents the closest major

metropolitan private hospital regional residents can attend,” he said.

“We are delighted to now provide south east Melbourne with a world class acute hospital, including critical care services and a cardiac investigation lab, as well as a variety of integrated rehabilitation and mental health service locations.”

Planning for moving day

Lisa said planning for moving day and all potential scenarios related to the move took about a year.

“No stone was left unturned,” Lisa said.





Pictured: The new St John of God Berwick Hospital opened on 18 January 2018..

“The detailed planning involved in the move process ensured that patient safety remained our number one priority throughout the day.”

Lisa thanked all caregivers who were involved in the move, whether that was in planning, execution, training, on move day or support.

“Our commissioning team credits the intense and thorough consultation process with caregivers, doctors and the community as the reason that the transition to the new hospital was so smooth,” she said.

“Throughout the whole redevelopment project, we talked to everyone about how we would deliver care in the new hospital and we then ensured that the design would enable our model of care.

“Whenever we got to a point when we had to make a decision it was always what was best for our patients and the best people to make this decision were the people delivering and receiving the care.” 🍷

Pictured: Baby Andy was the first baby welcomed at the new St John of God Berwick Hospital.

ST JOHN OF GOD BERWICK HOSPITAL BY THE NUMBERS

\$120 MILLION

cost of building and opening new hospital

445 BAYS

car parking for patients and caregivers

200 JOBS

new jobs created by hospital

33 PATIENTS

welcomed on opening day

22 BED

brand new maternity ward

10 BED

new cardiac unit

8 THEATRES

available at the new hospital

1 BABY

born on opening day



Building the house of the future for people with disability

Construction of a new state-of-the-art house for St John of God Accord clients with complex disabilities has started in East Brighton, Melbourne.

The five-bedroom house, which incorporates leading technology solutions, is designed to enable people with complex disability needs to live as independently as possible.

St John of God Accord Chief Executive Officer Tony Hollamby said the house would be built to the highest standard as a specialist disability accommodation (SDA) house, which was in high demand.

“The design of the house has gone through extensive consultation over two years with Accord staff, who are experienced in providing disability accommodation services, as well as clients and their families all providing input into the design,” he said.

“What makes this house different and exciting is that we are not only focused on ensuring the physical design of the home assists residents but we are also investigating incorporating cutting-edge technology solutions into the home design to further enhance residents’ daily lives.

“We have already identified clients who could benefit from this accommodation.”



St John of God Accord is partnering with Telstra to bring together innovative technology into the house to help enhance the residents’ lives.

“Our partnership with Telstra will help us ensure all technologies work seamlessly together to enhance the life of our residents,” Tony said.

“We will also work with universities to evaluate how the innovative technology solutions can address specific client needs with the aim of developing a blueprint of the technology design for support disability accommodation homes into the future.”

Building works started on the property in February 2018 with the first residents expected to be in their house by early 2019. 🏡

Pictured: St John of God Accord client Andrew Elliott and St John of God Accord Accommodation Team Leader Justine Duguid at the site of the new smart house, with St John of God Accord Director of Service Delivery Silvana Gugliandolo, Julian Butler from Telstra, St John of God Accord South and East Services Regional Manager Nicholas Pouki and Sherry Swanson from Telstra.

“What makes this house different and exciting is that we are not only focused on ensuring the physical design of the home assists residents but we are also investigating incorporating cutting-edge technology solutions into the home design to further enhance residents’ daily lives.”

Horizon House brings specialist support to young Bendigo mums

Vulnerable young mothers in Bendigo now have access to the St John of God Horizon House Young Mother and Baby Program after a new four-bedroom residential facility recently opened.

The program provides stable accommodation and support for young women aged 16 to 22 who are currently experiencing, or are at serious risk of, homelessness during their pregnancy and up to their child's third birthday.

It is delivered by an experienced team of qualified caregivers who provide individual case management and therapeutic support.

St John of God Social Outreach Director Youth and Accommodation Service Ros Fahey said the focus of the Young Mother and Baby Program was early intervention.

"We want to support these young women to develop the tools and skills they require to live independently as parents, preventing them and their

children from entering the cycle of homelessness," Ros said.

As part of their journey towards independence, all program clients are required to participate in education, training and employment opportunities.

Clients are also required to participate in a specialised program that builds parenting and essential life skills such as cooking, cleaning and personal budgeting.

"We have a strong focus on parent education, ensuring the health and development of mothers and babies and encouraging social connectedness and independence," Ros said.

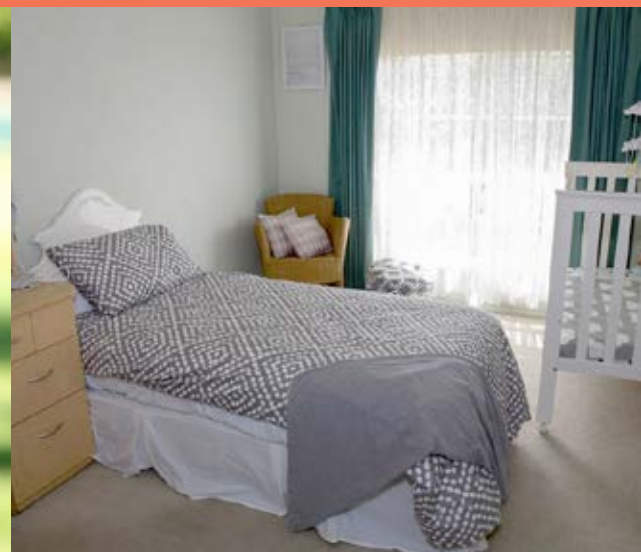
"It's very much about working with each young woman to achieve their

personal goals and ensure they are getting the best outcomes for them and their child.

"We are delighted to have an agreement with Haven Home Safe Housing in Bendigo that will see them provide Tier 2, transitional accommodations for young mothers who are ready to take the next step in their journey towards independence."

The Horizon House Young Mother and Baby Program has been running in Perth since 2012 and supported 18 young mothers and their children in 2016 alone.

This is the second dedicated Horizon House to open in Victoria in 2017, another Tier 1 house opened in Ballarat in August to support four young people at a time. 🍷



Patient focus for new online admissions

The new pilot online My Admission portal is offering patients at St John of God Murdoch Hospital an improved admission experience at their fingertips.

The new online admission portal enables patients to provide all their health, wellbeing and admission information in one place and at their own convenience.

St John of God Murdoch Hospital Patient Admissions Manager Debbie Hoddy said enabling patients to complete their pre-admission information online helped to reduce the confusion and associated stress with coming to hospital.

“There is a lot of information a patient needs to provide to ensure we can care for them – this ranges from information about their current health condition and surgery to their dietary requirements and preferred appointment times,” she said.

“Digitising this information means it is more easily shared throughout the hospital so that our patients do not have to repeat their details multiple times which we know can cause concerns and anxiety.”

The new portal allows patients and/or their specialist to complete the majority of their hospital pre-admission paperwork online, including:

- completing the patient registration and health questionnaire
- providing digital authorisation of financial forms
- booking in a pre-admission clinic appointment; and
- making any necessary payments online.

Age and digital proficiency have not proved to be barriers either, with more than 80 per cent of admissions now using the online portal and the oldest patient was a 92-year-old who successfully completed the online admissions process within the first few days of it going live.

St John of God Health Care Director of Finance and Performance for WA Hospitals Samantha Elder said the pilot initiative was a part of the organisation’s commitment to putting patients needs first when improving the admission process.

“My Admission has undergone extensive developments and enhancements since its inception, with feedback from caregivers and patients incorporated into the final version to ensure to that it is as intuitive and user-friendly as possible,” she said.

“We have also established an in-person and telephone admissions service to assist those patients who prefer to complete their admission process this way.”

In 2018, the pilot project is expanding to enable maternity patients to complete their admissions online.

St John of God Murdoch Hospital Manager of Midwifery Services Sue Bradshaw said the online admission process would help mums prepare to come to hospital as well as book their parent education classes online.

“We know that coming to hospital for maternity care can be a complex journey to navigate, particularly for mums expecting their first baby,” she said.

“We hope that enabling mums to complete all their admissions paperwork online will improve this journey so they can focus on looking forward to welcoming their new baby into the world with us.” 🌟

Pictured: Ray York, Marianne North, Janice Chapman and Linda test the new My Admissions portal with Project team member Taahir Kerbelker.



“Digitising this information means it is more easily shared throughout the hospital so that our patients do not have to repeat their details multiple times which we know can cause concerns and anxiety.”



Tiny pacemaker offers latest in technology

A pacemaker no bigger than a vitamin or heavier than a small coin is having an enormous impact on how cardiologists at St John of God Murdoch Hospital treat their patients with bradycardia, or a slow heartbeat.

The leadless Micra® Transcatheter Pacing System (TPS), ten times smaller than regular pacemakers, is implanted via catheter and is attached directly to the inside wall of the heart via small tines. There are no visible signs of the device.

Treating bradycardia with permanent pacemakers has been the standard of care since the 1960s when the first implantable pacemakers were developed for medical use.

Cardiologist Pradyot Saklani from Heartcare WA said since then numerous changes have increased battery longevity, reduced generator size, improved lead reliability, enhanced computing and algorithmic function and permitted remote device monitoring.

“Although pacemaker related issues are rare, complications related to the leads or the surgical pocket made under the skin for implantation have remained the greatest source of short and long-term morbidity,” he said.

“The Micra is a revolutionary technology which does away with the conventional pacemaker’s weakest components.

“Advances in battery technology and component design in particular have permitted miniaturisation of the pacemaker.”

The Micra has an average battery longevity of 12 years, is MRI conditional and can be monitored remotely. It is suitable for patients who require a single chamber pacemaker, have vascular access issues or a reason to avoid the conventional approach. However, it does not replace more complex multi-lead pacemakers or defibrillators.

St John of God Murdoch Hospital’s Director of Medical Services Alison Parr said the team was excited to offer patients such a minimally invasive approach in cardiology.

“Patients can expect the procedure to take less than an hour under local anaesthetic and to then return home the next day,” she said.

“We are receiving excellent feedback from patients who have had the Micra implanted and are eagerly awaiting longer term results.”

The Micra, and all other device implantations, are logged and patient outcomes tracked in an industry leading national device registry. Information from this registry helps to improve patient care and outcomes. 🍷

“The Micra is a revolutionary technology which does away with the conventional pacemaker’s weakest components.”

Pictured: Cardiologist Pradyot Saklani from Heartcare WA shows off the new pacemaker.

Innovation and motivation recognised in inaugural safety awards

“Everybody deserves to go home from work safely. It is just vital that we expect that people are safe in our workplace and we look after each other in the same way we look after our patients.”

An innovative solution to transporting oxygen bottles, going the extra yard to ensure safety compliance and creating a safety culture in Timor-Leste were celebrated at St John of God Health Care’s inaugural safety awards.

The three winners of the 2017 Tony Howarth Awards of Leadership in Health and Safety were announced in February, after 18 entries were received.

St John of God Health Care Chairman Tony Howarth said the award winners, which included a nurse, engineers and occupational health and safety representatives, highlighted the role every caregiver has to play in promoting a safety culture.

“Everybody deserves to go home from work safely. It is just vital that we expect that people are safe in our workplace and we look after each other in the same way we look after our patients,” he said.

“These winning initiatives demonstrate this well and highlight that good occupational health and safety is only achieved with input from everyone in the organisation and understanding that we are responsible for each other.”

THE WINNERS:

CATEGORY 1: A SOLUTION TO AN IDENTIFIED OHS ISSUE

Winner: St John of God Murdoch Hospital engineering team for designing and building a fit for purpose trolley for the safe handling of oxygen cylinders.

St John of God Murdoch Hospital Maintenance Engineer Fred Foley said the new equipment not only reduced occupational health and safety risks but also improved efficiency.

“We had to look at a new way of doing things. The trolley we were pushing around before could weigh up to 50 kilograms and this weighs 12 kilograms. It holds three cylinders and is an ergonomic way of transporting the cylinders around the hospital,” he said.

“Our trade team derived great satisfaction from actually getting their skills together an inventing this great solution.”



CATEGORY 2: MOST OUTSTANDING HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE

Winner: Corina Smith, St John of God Geraldton Hospital, for a range of initiatives including designing and implementing a new and outstanding program following the installation of a new fire panel and system that went above and beyond her work requirements.

Corina said she enjoyed the challenge and diversity associated with being an occupational health and safety representative at a small hospital.

“I get to meet lots of different caregivers and learn and respect their workplaces as I get to know what they do,” she said.

“This role has also opened my eyes to the health and safety risks and it has changed the way I do certain things not only at work but in my personal life with my family too.”



CATEGORY 3: BEST EXAMPLE OF SAFETY LEADERSHIP

Winner: Emilia Soares from St John of God Social Outreach in East Timor.

Although historically Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in Timor-Leste has not had the same focus as in Australia, the OHS committee in the Social Outreach office at the Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares in Dili has been working hard to establish a health and safety compliant environment in its workplace. They have a focus on obtaining full compliance under the OHS Act in Australia and are fully compliant in the Labour Code of Timor-Leste especially in regards to

Chapter II Section IV (Occupational, Security, Hygiene and Health).

Emilia said it was vital that people who lived in Timor-Leste took responsibility for occupational health and safety to ensure it becomes ingrained in their culture.

“To involve Timorese in the occupational health and safety committee is very important because the more Timorese people who focus on health and safety and identify hazard and risks, means we are better able to prevent accidents,” she said.



The awards are sponsored by HESTA and aim to recognise and celebrate safety achievements across the organisation.

St John of God Health Care Group Director Workforce Rita Maguire said she was delighted to see the level of

commitment to health and safety initiatives within the organisation.

“Our award recipients and nominees have set the benchmark for other caregivers within our organisation to aim for throughout 2018,” she said.

“The start of a new year is an opportunity for all of us to demonstrate our commitment to work health and safety and for caregivers to look out for each other and improve health and safety in their workplace.” 🍷

Services to health recognised in Australia Day awards

St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford awarded Member of the Order of Australia, along with a St John of God Midland Private Hospital ophthalmologist.

Dr Michael Stanford was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division in the Australian honours system for significant service to the health sector, while Ophthalmologist Dr Ross Littlewood was also recognised.

The awards were announced in the Australia Day 2018 Honours List on 26 January, with Dr Ross Littlewood recognised for his dedication to restoring eyesight to people in Timor-Leste.

Michael, whose career and contribution in the health sector has spanned more than 30 years, said he was delighted and honoured to accept the award.

St John of God Health Care Chairman Tony Howarth congratulated Michael for the award.

“Michael has dedicated his life to the pursuit of excellence and served the organisations he has led with purpose, commitment and integrity to the benefit of countless Australians,” he said.

“He is a most worthy recipient of an Order of Australia honour.”

Ross, who performs surgery at St John of God Midland Private Hospital, was recognised for his yearly visits to Timor-Leste where he performs cataract surgery restoring sight for people living in remote and rural areas.

“It is very rewarding to be able to give the gift of sight to people, which not only helps their quality of life, but also other family members,” he said.

“It is fantastic to be able to restore people’s eyesight and see them laughing and enjoying life again and I feel very honoured to be recognised in these awards for this work.” 🙏



Pictured: Left: St John of God Health Care Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Stanford.

Right: St John of God Midland Private Hospital Ophthalmologist Dr Ross Littlewood.

Developing doctors help developing countries



Scholarships offered by St John of God Health Care have given three University of Notre Dame medical students the opportunity to work in hospitals in developing African countries and enhance their clinical knowledge.

Final year medical students Georgia Yarrow, Maddison Waters and Melissa Koslow were awarded the annual St John of God Health Care – Dr Michael Quinlan Medical Elective Scholarships and each travelled to different areas in Africa to learn and improve their potential as doctors.

The students’ experiences ranged from working in hospitals where diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria were rampant, maternity hospitals where women had no access to pain relief and in a paediatric HIV clinic.

St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital Director of Medical Services Dr Stuart

Pictured: St John of God Murdoch Hospital Director of Medical Services Alison Parr, scholarship winner Georgia Yarrow, Dr Michael Quinlan, and scholarship winners Melissa Koslow and Maddison Waters.

Prosser said the scholarships, named after Dr Michael Quinlan for his contribution to medical education, clinical services and the Catholic Church, enabled outstanding medical students to develop an understanding of the challenges facing health care in those regions.

“As each student also highlighted in their reflection of their experiences, seeing health care in these countries provides first hand insight of the barriers which prevent the provision of health care,” he said.

“It also provides an opportunity for students to take a hands-on role to improving health care knowledge for nurses, midwives and doctors in the hospitals they attended.


“As a leading health care provider, it is important that St John of God Health Care supports and provides opportunities to medical students

to improve their knowledge, clinical acumen and problem solving skills so they can develop into exceptional doctors.”

Student Georgia Yarrow thanked St John of God Health Care for the scholarship which has inspired her to breakdown the barriers preventing people from accessing the health care they need.

“The scholarship reinforced my clinical acumen and problem solving skills to find solutions in a resource-poor environment,” she said.

“I had expected to learn more about infectious diseases, but instead my time in Africa has given me a taste of the real barriers to healthcare and public health in underserved and under-resourced populations.” 🍷



“This is important because it means that both female and male family members can choose to undergo genetic testing and, if found to carry a gene fault, can take strategies to reduce their risk of developing cancer.”

BRCA

to the future

New research identifying the BRCA gene in women with ovarian cancer aims to help reduce the risk of others developing the disease.

Researchers at St John of God Subiaco Hospital are helping more people identify their genetic risk of developing ovarian cancer as a part of the nationwide ground-breaking TRACEBACK program.

The program, a collaboration between Ovarian Cancer Australia and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (Peter Mac), is aimed at preventing cases of breast and ovarian cancer - the most lethal gynaecological cancer - by identifying unaware carriers of the BRCA gene mutations.

Director of the Gynaecological Cancer Research Group at St John of God Subiaco Hospital Dr Paul Cohen said identifying this gene was particularly important as there was no current screening available for ovarian cancer.

"Ovarian cancer is difficult to detect, there are currently no effective screening tests, and unfortunately by the time women get symptoms their cancer has often already spread," he said.

"This means for a majority of women who are diagnosed with ovarian cancer it is not curable."

Paul said some BRCA gene mutations could increase a woman's chances of developing ovarian cancer from about one in 78 to almost one in two.

The TRACEBACK program will test tissue samples for BRCA gene mutations, and other ovarian cancer genes, from about 1,500 Australian women who were diagnosed with ovarian cancer over the past 15 years and who were not tested.

"This is important because it means that both female and male family members can choose to undergo genetic testing and, if found to carry a gene fault, can take strategies to reduce their risk of developing cancer," he said.

"Furthermore, certain new chemotherapy drugs also work more effectively in women with recurrent ovarian cancer who carry BRCA1/2 mutations, and therefore the results can also have treatment implications."

ST JOHN OF GOD SUBIACO HOSPITAL'S LEADING ROLE IN TREATING OVARIAN CANCER



Paul said a large number of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer in Western Australia choosing private hospital care were treated at St John of God Subiaco Hospital.

"Research shows women with ovarian cancer have better outcomes if they are looked after in a tertiary centre where they are doing research, more procedures and have the surgical and medical oncology expertise like we do at Subiaco," he said.

The hospital has, over the past three years, been involved in a range of gynaecological cancer research including a clinical trial aimed comparing treatments for cervical pre-cancer and research that has helped to inform the TRACEBACK program.

"Over the last two years we have also hosted very successful BRCA information days which stemmed from a similar event I attended in New South Wales where women who carried BRCA gene faults spoke about the emotions and complex processes involved in deciding on treatment strategies to reduce their risk of breast and ovarian cancer" he said.

"That left a really strong impression on me and I was fortunate enough to have the support of the hospital, and Pink Hope, to host the first event in 2016 which sold out and had people flying in from places like Kalgoorlie to attend and then again in 2017." 🍷

Partnering for action on perinatal mental health

Partnership between researchers and leading community and service providers is essential for research to make a real difference.

For the last 15 years, St John of God Health Care Chair Perinatal and Women's Mental Health Research Unit Professor Marie-Paule Austin and her team have partnered with The Gidget Foundation to help expectant and new parents understand and tackle perinatal anxiety and depression.

Marie-Paule said this collaboration with the Gidget Foundation - a not-for-profit organisation supporting the emotional wellbeing of new parents and their families - was focused on advancing national understanding and action on a range of perinatal mental health issues and services.

"We have known for a number of years now that 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," she said.

"Awareness of the ongoing effects of this are only starting to be understood. Public awareness and health care policy in this field continues to expand, with partnerships such as this one proving vital to year-on-year developments."

Marie-Paule said the partnership not only had day-to-day benefits such as being able to refer her patients at the St John of God Burwood Hospital Mother and Baby Unit to the Gidget Foundation for community care and support, but also brought increased attention to the conditions.


"We've been able to positively influence one another's impact on this important public health issue and we simply couldn't make the progress we have without professional alliances like this one," she said.

Marie-Paule cited the key advisory role Dr Vijay Roach, Chair of the Gidget Foundation and Vice-President of the RANZ College Obstetrics and Gynecology, had within the working group she recently chaired. This group's work led to new national guidelines which ensure new mums have their mental health screened as a part of their routine maternity and postnatal care.

In addition Dr Roach and Marie-Paule's longstanding collaboration has led to new Medicare rebatable items that will ensure private obstetricians also screen their patients for mental health issues.

"As the awareness of perinatal mental health grows, the opportunities to partner with leading organisations becomes ever more important," she said.

"Our work with BeyondBlue, the Black Dog Institute, the Centre of Perinatal Excellence and New South Wales Health has already resulted in new guidelines and policies benefiting mums in NSW and Australia.

"With the new clinical guidelines being released late in 2017, it is now more important than ever to keep the ball rolling and not only help clinicians translate our research into their everyday practice but continue partnering with leading organisations and other research institutes." 

Pictured: Chair of the Gidget Foundation and Vice-President of the RANZ College Obstetrics and Gynecology Dr Vijay Roach with St John of God Health Care Chair Perinatal and Women's Mental Health Research Unit Professor Marie-Paule Austin.



“Awareness of the ongoing effects of this are only starting to be understood. Public awareness and health care policy in this field continues to expand, with partnerships such as this one proving vital to year-on-year developments.”

New faces add business and spiritual leadership to governance

An experienced Catholic education leader and a prominent business consultant have been welcomed to the St John of God Health Care Trustees and Board respectively.

Danielle Cronin, former National Catholic Education Commission executive, was appointed as a Trustee at the start of January.

Trustee Chairman Eva Skira said Danielle's experience in the Catholic education sector would help St John of God Health Care remain faithful to our ministry.



Pictured: St John of God Health Care Trustee Danielle Cronin.

"Danielle is very highly regarded within the Catholic sector and has a strong record of Catholic leadership," she said.

Danielle's experience includes working as the National Catholic Education Commission's Acting Executive Director until June 2017. In 2008, she earned the Australian Churchill Fellowship studying policy measures which drive parental engagement with schooling.

In February 2018, prominent WA business leader Adrian Arundell was appointed to the organisation's board bringing with him private industry experience.

St John of God Health Care Board Chairman Tony Howarth welcomed the appointment and said Adrian's understanding of the changing landscape of Australia's private health care system would be particularly valued.



Pictured: St John of God Health Care Board member Adrian Arundell.

"Adrian is a well-known business leader in Western Australia and his credentials in leading transformation across a vast range of industries will be an asset to our organisation," he said.

Adrian is a Council Member of John XXIII College and a Board Member of the University of Notre Dame Australia. In 2009, he was recognised as one of WA's top 40 young pre-eminent business leaders and was a recipient of a WA Business News 40under40 award. 🍷

Building strong Catholic leaders

Two St John of God Health Care caregivers were among the first to complete the new Graduate Certificate in Catholic Leadership at the University of Notre Dame.

St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals Director of Mission Integration Tara Peters and St John of God Health Care Allied Health Governance Project Manager Rachel Resuggan successfully graduated in December 2018.

The course focuses on Catholic mission and identity, Catholic leadership and management and leading change in a Catholic context.

Tara said she was interested in the course to further understand the distinctive nature of leadership in a Catholic context particularly the impact this form of leadership has on both those who work in an organisation and those they serve.

“The course has given me a deeper understanding of what it means to work in a Catholic agency and has personally developed my own leadership skills.”

“Being a leader is about supporting and empowering people to become all they can be – to travel a journey together towards common vision,” she said.

“There is not a day in my role at St John of God Health Care that I don’t put the knowledge I gained through the course into practice.”

Rachel said she would recommend the course to all leaders within the organisation.

“It provides a valuable opportunity to self-reflect on your leadership and provides learning about contemporary leadership theories and lots of discussion about how this is applied within Catholic organisations,” she said.

“There is a powerful opportunity to practice your learnings in an immersion experience which is a wonderful way of practicing your learnings in a safe environment.”

Group Manager Formation Cathy Scott said St John of God Health Care was proud to support its caregivers to undertake the course, which the organisation helped design in partnership with the University.

“The course is designed for managers and leaders to help integrate a Catholic perspective into key decision-making to build greater Mission effectiveness,” she said.

“Each year, Group Mission supports caregivers who have reached this particular phase of their Formation journey to help them progress as strong Catholic leaders.” 🍎

Pictured: St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals Director of Mission Integration Tara Peters and St John of God Health Care Allied Health Governance Project Manager Rachel Resuggan.





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