

The Ramsay Way

Ramsay Health Care Corporate Newsletter



Ramsay
Health Care

Ramsay Health Care joins Australia's top 10 most attractive employers

The top 10 most desirable employers for 2023:

1. Federal Department of Defence
2. Australian Leisure and Hospitality Group
3. NSW Health
4. QLD government
5. Federal government
6. Federal Department of Health
7. BHP
8. Virgin Australia
9. NSW Department of Communities & Justice
- 10. Ramsay Health Care.**

Ramsay Health Care has secured a spot as one of Australia's 'Top 10 most attractive employers in 2023', according to employer brand research by recruitment and HR services firm Randstad.

Randstad surveyed almost 6,000 Australians in one of the world's largest independent employer brand studies, with results announced in June.

Ramsay Australia CEO, Carmel Monaghan, said our success stems from our culture of "people caring for people".

"Our long-standing values are underpinned by the enduring belief of our founder, Paul Ramsay AO, that if you look after the people, success will follow," Ms Monaghan said.

"Being included on this list is particularly pleasing given the challenges healthcare has faced during the past two years. We have been working hard to foster an enjoyable and flexible work environment and create professional development opportunities.

We also prioritise the wellbeing and mental health of our teams.

"Our people have told us they value career progression and professional development, and we listened. We've recently expanded our Australian Leadership Academy to offer support, mentorship and career pathways more of our people.

"Our 'people caring for people' culture is what has and continues to make Ramsay successful. Thank you to all our people around the country for helping us to make Ramsay a great place to work." ■■

Ramsay expands hospital network with new Ramsay Surgical Centre in regional NSW

Ramsay Health Care has acquired its 74th hospital – Orange Private Hospital in central western NSW – less than two months after the facility went into voluntary administration.

This takeover will allow Ramsay to take on aspects of the hospital's operations for the ongoing benefit of the community, doctors and employees.

Orange Private Hospital will be renamed as Ramsay Surgical Centre Orange and will continue to perform surgical procedures in the same location.

Ramsay Surgical Centre Orange will become a short-stay hospital for patients undergoing treatments who do not require an overnight stay.

The site contains operating theatres, recovery areas, a central sterile supply department and pre-admission area – all located on level 4 of the Bloomfield Medical Centre.

Any patients requiring overnight stays can be treated at the nearby Dudley Private Hospital, also operated by Ramsay Health Care.

Ramsay Australia CEO, Carmel Monaghan, said Ramsay has been proud to serve the Orange community since it began operating Dudley Private Hospital almost 20 years ago and contributes \$11.5 million to the local economy each year.

CEO of Ramsay Surgical Centre Orange and Dudley Private Hospital, Mandy Rutherford, said the acquisition is an opportunity to combine two groups of healthcare professionals into one collaborative team.

"We look forward to welcoming the former Orange Private Hospital staff and doctors into our Ramsay family and embracing them in our unique culture of 'people caring for people,'" Ms Rutherford said. ■■





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the third edition of The Ramsay Way for 2023. It has been a busy few months across the company.

In recent months we announced we're adding two more surgical centres to our portfolio. Ramsay Surgical Centre Orange is the new name for Orange Private Hospital, which we acquired in July after the facility went into voluntary administration in NSW.

A brand-new surgical centre in Cleveland, Queensland, is also due to be operational by late 2025, offering day surgery services close to home for this growing east Brisbane market.

In July, we celebrated Lake Macquarie Private Hospital's 50th anniversary. This hospital has always been a leader – having the first cardiac angiography unit between Sydney and Brisbane in the 80s, introducing cardiac surgery in the 90s and opening the first private ED between Sydney and the Gold Coast in 2015. Its ICU is second to none. I am very excited about this hospital's future as we look towards the first stage of its redevelopment opening next year. There are countless doctors and staff who have contributed to the success of Lake Macquarie Private and we thank them all for their commitment and dedication to patients.

I was delighted to see that Ramsay was named in Australia's top 10 most attractive employers in a recent nationwide survey by recruitment firm Randstad – one of the world's largest independent employer brand studies surveying almost 6,000 people. Ramsay was among only four non-public sector employers.

It is particularly pleasing given the challenges our healthcare has faced during the past two years. We have been working hard to foster an enjoyable and flexible work environment and create professional development opportunities.

In this edition of The Ramsay Way you will see that our Digital Transformation is progressing well, with the team focussing on kicking off important, multi-year programs and addressing some of our most urgent digital needs, as well as developing the capabilities we need to succeed.

Lastly, after nine years in the role, our long-serving and respected Chair, Michael Siddle, has decided to step down from the role following the Annual General Meeting in November. Michael will seek re-election at that meeting to remain on the Board as a Non-Executive Director.

Michael is a welcome and familiar face across Ramsay and has a huge wealth of knowledge about our business and healthcare more broadly. He is a genuine champion of our caring culture and the Board will be pleased to retain his insight and expertise.

Our new Chair will be David Thodey AO, who has been an independent director on the Ramsay Board since 2017.

David has extensive experience in the technology, telecommunications, science and innovation sectors and has led successful transformations across private and public sector organisations. The Board is confident that David is the ideal person to help Ramsay navigate through a period of significant change for healthcare. David has visited a number of Ramsay sites around the country in the last few weeks and I look forward to working even more closely with him in the future

Warm regards,

Carmel Monaghan
Chief Executive Officer, Ramsay Health Care Australia

SURGERY NEWS

Shark attack victim farewells Westmead Private Hospital after 6 months

Brigitte Do flew home to New Caledonia in July, almost six months after arriving at Westmead Private Hospital following a shark attack that left her with life-changing injuries.

Brigitte was swimming at the main beach in Noumea on January 29, as she did every day, when she was bitten from behind by a shark. After being initially treated at the local hospital ICU, Brigitte was quickly transferred to Westmead Private Hospital due to the severity of her injuries.

"The shark came from the back and bit my back, my bottom, and the back of my left thigh. It was a big shock and when I turned my head to see what was happening I saw the shark's eyes looking at me. I tried to protect myself with my hands and the shark bit me again, taking my left hand and half of the right hand," Brigitte said.

While at Westmead Private, Brigitte underwent 17 surgical procedures including the reconstitution of muscles from her back and her amputated arm to her leg to ensure she could walk again.

Brigitte's other surgeries included taking a toe from her left foot to add to her right hand to replace her missing thumb to ensure she can still grab and hold things; multiple skin grafts; and surgery to reconstitute the limb of her missing hand to a stump as well as Targeted Muscle Reinnervation to reduce the risk of phantom pain and to prepare the stump for a possible myoelectric prosthesis in the future.

Specialist Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Dr Bish Soliman, said Brigitte's injuries were unique and severe.

"It's very rare to see such severe injuries. They were unusual also, in that she lost her left hand and right thumb, index and middle fingers as well as her left thigh muscles and major nerve," Dr Soliman said.

"The local doctors did an amazing job in stabilising her prior to her transferring her to Westmead Private. From there, I discussed her case with a number of different surgeons.

"We discussed leg amputation and reconstructive options with Brigitte and her family and ultimately, together we decided to pursue a reconstruction.

"Brigitte was an absolute pleasure to look after. Despite her injuries she remained pleasant, determined and always compliant. She is also lucky to have a lot of support around her to get her through the terrible injuries."

Brigitte, who is now able to walk, said the most difficult part is not knowing what the future holds.

"The hardest part is realising that my life will not be the same at all. That will be the next step after all the rehabilitation of my body, we will have to make a new beautiful life. Every day we realise that I'm able to do new things, like walking and climbing stairs, so I am happy I will be able to have a kind of autonomy. The next big thing will be the possibility of having a prosthesis for my left hand.

"I want to thank everyone at Westmead Private. The surgeons, the physios, and all the nurses gave me more than care, they showed humanity, shared stories and laughs. We will never forget the surprise they organised for my birthday. ■■





More scholarships to boost skills and studies

Winners for round two of this year’s Ramsay National Scholarship Program have been announced, with 33 Ramsay team members being awarded a share in more than \$80,000 in scholarship funds to help progress their careers.

The scholarship program, launched in 2016, has to date supported 296 Ramsay staff members or teams with almost \$800,000 in financial support.

CEO, Carmel Monaghan, said the National Scholarship Program was established to support the ongoing professional development of Ramsay employees.

“I wish this group every success in their careers with Ramsay as they grow their knowledge and skills to benefit patients as well as the wider business.”

This year’s recipients include:

- **Cassandra Forsyth** from St Andrew’s Ipswich Private Hospital who will use her scholarship funds to undertake a Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education and Management;
- **Elizabeth Shepherd** from North West Private Hospital will use her scholarship funds to undertake additional training in Antenatal and Birth Suite Clinical Skills; and
- **Kelaine Irvin** from Greenslopes Private Hospital who will take part in a Lymphoedema Accreditation Training Program.

The next round of the National Scholarship Program will open later this year. 🏢



How the Ramsay Health Plus Rockhampton team will benefit from \$3,000 scholarship

Ramsay Health Plus Rockhampton Allied Health manager, Carmela Birch, was delighted to receive confirmation that her team were successful in securing a \$3,000 scholarship for professional development for an ACLR and ACL Conservative Management Course.

The latest research provides a clinically benchmarked strategy for ACLR rehabilitation and best patient care. ACL reconstructions (ACLR) surgeries are performed regularly at Hillcrest and the scholarship funding will provide training to assist the team to develop stronger service provision for outpatient care in this field.

“This opportunity allows our clinicians to develop a solid foundation of skills, knowledge and confidence to assess, manage and treat patients presenting with ALC injuries both pre and post operatively,” said Ms Birch.

“This is the second consecutive year our team has been a successful CPD Team Scholarship recipient of the Ramsay National Scholarship Program. Last year we were able to access training in Vestibular Dysfunction which has resulted in us expanding our services at RHP Rockhampton.”

Hillcrest CEO, Fiona Hebbard said, “This is a wonderful opportunity and exciting experience for our RHP Rockhampton team to look forward to.” 🏢

World Environment Day



Celebrating our sustainability success

On World Environment Day in May, Ramsay acknowledged the meaningful achievements of our people in reducing single-use plastic items, phasing out harmful anaesthetic gases and boosting energy efficient lighting and power around Australia.

In the past year alone, Ramsay has saved 24 million single-use plastic items – such as cutlery, medicine cups and kidney dishes - from going to landfill by instead sourcing more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Since the single-use plastics initiative started in 2020, Ramsay has removed 60 million single-use

plastic items from our supply chain and hopes to reach 75 million items by the end of this year.

Ramsay Australia CEO, Carmel Monaghan, said reducing carbon emissions is a priority for Ramsay.

“We now have 26 hospitals with solar panels generating energy equivalent to taking more than

1,700 cars off the road every year,” she said.

“We’ve completed LED efficient lighting upgrades at 33 sites – about double the amount this time last year – and are committed to phasing out the use of a high carbon anaesthetic gas called desflurane in our operating theatres.”



Shepparton Private Hospital takes practical steps towards Net Zero 2040 target

Shepparton Private Hospital has taken the next step in its commitment to protecting the planet, unveiling a new solar panel system which will save hundreds of tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.



The new 318 kilowatt (kW) solar panel system will save more than 437 tonnes of carbon emissions and 1.414 gigajoules of energy every year.

Shepparton Private Hospital CEO, Rhys Jones, said he was proud the hospital was tackling climate change through meaningful sustainability initiatives.

“Saving more than 6,300 tonnes of carbon emissions over its lifetime, this system is the equivalent of taking 105 cars off the road,” Mr Jones said.

“Installing solar panels is just the latest in a list of practical actions we’re taking to protect the environment and create a more sustainable hospital for the future.”

Joondalup Health Campus celebrates NAIDOC Week

Aboriginal Elders admitted to Joondalup Health Campus (JHC) during NAIDOC Week received small gifts in line with this year’s theme “For our Elders” while staff enjoyed Noongar bush tuckera.

NAIDOC Week (2-9 July) provides an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

JHC Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Sherrilee Riddell, said she was proud the hospital celebrated NAIDOC Week and was part of organising celebrations.

“It was so lovely being able to give our Elders a gift for NAIDOC this year,” she said.

“The Elders said they felt acknowledged and they valued being recognised as important members in our community, which is so important.

“Having things like awareness posters, staff wearing Aboriginal designs and introducing a NAIDOC-themed menu

are small but significant gestures to build relationships and awareness of Aboriginal culture.”

Saltbush chook, chocolate kangaroo stew, lemon infused hoki and herbed butter, mountain pepper squid, wattle seed and thyme damper were some of the menu items.

The hospital cafeteria was covered with NAIDOC posters from the past 50 years and addressing every theme.

“It is important to be able to discuss the past events and the progress made,” Sherrilee said.

The JHC Aboriginal Liaison team visits Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients providing them with cultural support. They liaise between patient and hospital staff, refer patients to support services and explain services and procedures.

“In a nutshell our role is to make our mob feel culturally safe in hospital,” Sherrilee said.

JHC Aboriginal Liaison Officers Jasmine Howard (left) and Tina Garlett (right) tasting the bush tucker with Chef Mary Lewis (centre).



Baringa Private Hospital welcomes back former patient during NAIDOC Week

Baringa Private Hospital held an afternoon tea during NAIDOC Week, inviting a former patient, Uncle Rob, to join in the celebrations.

Uncle Rob was accompanied by some of his family including Auntie Pauline, who did a welcome to country in local Gumbaynggir language.

Uncle Rob shared his life story including military time, time spent in Sydney studying, his work to establish the Bangarra Dance company and his long road to recovery which included time spent at Baringa.



St George Private Hospital celebrates NAIDOC Week

St George Private Hospital celebrated NAIDOC Week with a bush tucker themed morning tea and presentation by guest speaker Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) Youth Representative, Savannah Flynn.

Savannah spoke about how the MLALC has been established to ‘promote and protect Aboriginal culture and the heritage of Aboriginal persons in its area’.



Introducing Dr Anthony Murray, Australia’s first Indigenous Orthopaedic Surgeon

Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital and Nambour Selangor Private Hospital have welcomed Australia’s first Indigenous orthoped, Dr Anthony Murray, a hip and knee specialist.

A proud Aboriginal Dharug man, Dr Murray was the first Indigenous person to become an orthopaedic surgeon when he graduated from surgical training in 2021.

Dr Murray is passionate about ensuring healthcare is accessible to all Australians.

He sits on the Australian Orthopaedic Association Cultural Inclusion Working Group that aims to identify and work towards removing barriers to the provision of equitable healthcare. Dr Murray is also on the Royal Australian College of Surgeons Indigenous Health Committee that addresses barriers to Indigenous healthcare across Australia.

Dr Murray is happy to call the Sunshine Coast home, consulting his Town and Country Orthopaedics practice rooms at the Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital and Nambour Selangor Private Hospital.

“My wife’s family lives on the Sunshine Coast and being Queenslanders, our plan was always to live here. We wanted to be more connected to our family, but also wanted a place to call home – where we could have a balanced lifestyle and where I could really get to know the community I work in,” Dr Murray said.

Hollywood Private Hospital plays leading role in cancer vaccine trial

There is new hope for melanoma sufferers, Western Australian researchers playing a significant role in the trial of a unique cancer vaccine therapy – the first of its kind in the world.

The new vaccine, mRNA-4157, uses a patient's tumour DNA to help target their individual tumour. The vaccine is being trialled at various hospitals around the world, with Hollywood Private Hospital the highest recruiting site under Cancer Clinical Trials Lead and Lead Author of the trial, Professor Adnan Khattak.

Professor Khattak, a medical oncologist, said the trial is taking a personalised approach to melanoma treatment in the hope of improving cure rates on top of what standard immunotherapy offers.

"Current treatments are more generic and work for some cases and not for others," Professor Khattak explained.

"This trial is considering a more personalised approach towards targeting an individual patient's tumour. Essentially treating the right patient with the right drug at the right time."

Professor Khattak said while a cure for melanoma was still some way off, the trial results are positive.

"The trial has shown the vaccine significantly delays disease recurrence in patients with resected high-risk melanoma when added to standard-of-care therapy.

"We've also found this approach not only reduces the chances of melanoma relapsing locally but more importantly stops it from spreading to the distant organs.

"Taking this more personalised approach to cancer treatment we hope to be better able to treat our patients how they need to be treated, whether that's one drug or two drugs, and hopefully also save some from side effects of therapy if they not responding well to a particular drug."

Professor Khattak attended the American Society of Clinical Oncology's 2023 annual meeting in Chicago in June where he presented the results of the phase 2 trial with tens of thousands of leading international oncologists.

"This is potentially a very exciting approach that may be applicable across multiple tumour types, so was worthy of sharing with thousands of leading oncologists from around the world," he said.

"I do a lot of clinical trials, but this personalised cancer vaccine therapy trial is the first of its kind to demonstrate benefit and has led to plans for a much bigger study in melanoma and also in other cancers moving forward."



Clinical Trials Day 20 May



WE CURRENTLY HAVE
245
ACTIVE
CLINICAL
TRIALS

20 
RAMSAY SITES
UNDERTAKING
CLINICAL TRIALS

11% 
**INCREASE
IN TRIALS**
SINCE MAY 2022

Ramsay
Health Care
Australia
celebrates
International
Clinical
Trials Day

Professor Colleen Loo leads new research into severe depression

Ramsay Clinic Northside Psychiatrist, Professor Colleen Loo, and colleagues have conducted the largest study in the world investigating the use of generic ketamine, known as racemic ketamine, for treating severe depression.

Currently, S-ketamine nasal spray is sometimes prescribed in Australia for treatment-resistant depression, but it costs approximately \$800 per dose, making it unaffordable for many Australians. The generic option, racemic ketamine, costs as little as \$5 per dose.

Researchers led by Professor Loo recruited 179 people with treatment-resistant depression who were given a 4-week course of treatment with either an injection of racemic ketamine or a placebo. Researchers were also unaware which drug the patients received, known as a double-blind trial, to reduce the risk of bias.

One fifth of trial participants given racemic ketamine reported that they no longer had clinical depression in the four days following their final dose, compared to just two per cent of the placebo group reported the same outcome. The effectiveness of racemic ketamine compared to placebo was at least as good as that of S-ketamine nasal spray.

Professor Loo is now leading an application to have the treatment subsidised by Medicare, supported by the Black Dog Institute, a not-for-profit medical research institute.

“Ketamine is a tremendous treatment for people with treatment-resistant depression, but the main barrier now to access is people can’t afford the costs, which is why we have made this application,” Professor Loo said.

“I’m very hopeful that within one or two years, treatment will be Medicare-funded.



“The research informed a model for ketamine treatment that has been implemented at the Ramsay Clinic Northside and the soon-to-open ketamine clinic at Ramsay Clinic Lakeside – both state-of-the-art ketamine treatment clinics.”

Ramsay Health Care Australia celebrates the important role of its medical research teams in working to uncover new or improved treatments, therapies and tests to help save lives.

The Ramsay Clinical Trials Network is conducting more than 250 clinical trials across its network of 20 sites throughout New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia.

Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation CEO, Nicola Ware, said investing in clinical trials was critical to providing high quality, leading care.

“Research and clinical trials play an important role in the future of health care while also providing direct benefits and improved outcomes for participating patients,” Ms Ware said.

“As well as helping shape the future of health care testing and treatment options, it can also offer patients early access to potentially life-saving treatments. This can be particularly beneficial for patients with rare conditions where treatment options are still limited.”

The Ramsay Clinical Trials Network has grown significantly since launching in 2017, with the support of the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation. Five new sites have been added to the network in the past 12 months, and current trials are up 11 per cent from the same time last year.

“We expect the growth of activity in the Clinical Trials Network to continue, enhancing the opportunities for Ramsay patients to participate in a clinical trial in any discipline,” Ms Ware said.

THE NEWEST SITES IN THE RAMSAY CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK INCLUDE:

Ramsay
Clinic
Lakeside

Ramsay
Clinic
Northside

Westmead
Private
Hospital

The Avenue
Private
Hospital

Albury
Wodonga
Private
Hospital

The Ramsay Clinical Trials Network undertakes research in four key areas – Cancer (oncology and haematology), Orthopaedics, Mental Health and Cardiology – as well as other therapeutic areas.

One trial currently underway at Ramsay’s Hollywood Private Hospital in Western Australia is the network’s first CAR-T cell study. CAR-T cells are T cells genetically engineered to recognise and kill cancer cells.

The study, involving patients with relapsed or refractory non-Hodgkin lymphoma, is evaluating how lymphodepletion (a short course of chemotherapy to kill your T cells) differs when using chemotherapy medications fludarabine and cyclophosphamide alone, versus using them in conjunction with ALLO-647 – an antibody designed to target certain white blood cells.

The study hopes to contribute to the future survival rate of people diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Ramsay Clinic Albert Road in Victoria is working to improve the lives of patients with mental health conditions, including serving as the most significant contributor in a clinical trial called CAEDT-BD. The trial is investigating whether blood pressure and heart disease medication, Candesartan, can help to reduce symptoms and improve quality of life for people with bipolar depression.

Joondalup's new Mental Health Unit set to welcome first patients

World-class facility will deliver more public mental health inpatient services in Perth's northern corridor.



For the first time, Joondalup Health Campus will soon admit youth patients (16-24 years) and older adult patients (65+ years) and offer more beds for adult patients.

The 102-bed Mental Health Unit is an impressive, contemporary and light-filled facility, part of a \$269.4 million expansion co-funded by the State and Australian Governments.

Commissioning Coordinator Mary McConnell was responsible for ensuring all staff were comprehensively inducted into the double-storey facility.

“Staff are learning how to navigate through the facility with the assistance of separate colour schemes for adult, older adult and youth areas, as well as familiarising themselves with new and advanced architectural features, safety systems, and new processes and procedures,” said Mary.

Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Claire Sutton said staff were thrilled to be in the new unit.

“Our team is really excited to be able to deliver care in the new patient-centred and recovery focussed space,” said Claire.

“We’ve made a number of new staffing appointments and are continuing to do so in preparation for the staged opening of new beds, and the new building is certainly part of the attraction of joining our team in addition to the positive culture we foster,” she said.

Joondalup Health Campus is working to ensure close linkages between the inpatient service and public community services will streamline the patient journey. ■■

2023 SERIES

Ramsay Mental Health's Psychiatry Symposium *Series*

Sharing expertise for better patient care

Ramsay Mental Health has launched a new education program to offer its psychiatrists and psychiatry registrars regular access to professional development from some of the nation's best mental health professionals.

Director of Ramsay Mental Health, Anne Mortimer, said the program was designed to offer access to the incredible expertise within the organisation to assist its visiting medical officers (VMOs) to keep up to date with the most recent clinical information and provide their patients with the highest standards of clinical care.

“Ramsay Mental Health's Psychiatry Symposium Series is something we've been developing for some time,” Ms Mortimer said.

“As Australia's leading private psychiatrist network, we are ideally placed to deliver high-quality education and, as a leading private trainer of psychiatry registrars, we want to extend this offering to Australia's future psychiatrists also.

“In short, we want to share our collective wisdom to create better outcomes for our patients.”

The Psychiatry Symposium Series will enhance the broad educational offerings available to Ramsay Mental Health's psychiatrists and future psychiatrists, which include a New Fellow Mentorship Program, specialised Eating Disorders Training Program and national special interest craft groups. The webinar-based series commenced in July 2023. ■■



Southwest Sydney home to Australia's newest program for men suffering from PTSD

More life saving mental health support is now available with the launch of Ramsay Clinic Macarthur's dedicated trauma program.

The new program, modelled off Ramsay's successful female-focussed trauma-informed mental health facility at Ramsay Clinic Thirroul in Wollongong, will ensure even more Australians have access to much-needed support for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Recent studies have shown more than 62 per cent of Australians over the age of 16 have experienced childhood trauma, and highlight the link between trauma and risk behaviours, such as drinking, drug use, self-harm and suicide attempts.¹

Psychiatrist and Medical Superintendent of Ramsay Clinic Macarthur, Dr Angelo Virgona, said there is a desperate need for more specialist services to support the mental health concerns of those suffering from PTSD.

“We understand that mental health challenges look different for everyone. Patients with PTSD are best treated by trauma-informed specialists using evidence-based treatment options,” Dr Virgona said.

“Prevention is beyond the scope of health

care workers, other than being able to intervene early enough to prevent inter-generational trauma.

“Programs like those we offer at Thirroul and now here at Macarthur have the capacity to change the trajectories of people's lives.”

Dr Virgona said the new trauma program is psychiatrist-led with the support of trauma informed medical, allied health and nursing staff.

“The program goes further than simply treating the symptoms of trauma, like depression or anxiety, it works with patients to identify and treat the underlying cause,” he said.

“The program is available to those who have experienced all forms of trauma, including childhood trauma, veterans with PTSD, refugees, first responders, domestic violence survivors and car crash victims.” ■■

1. Australian Child Maltreatment Study (Haslam et al., 2023); The Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS)


New Ramsay practices offer one-stop shop for psychology and allied health services

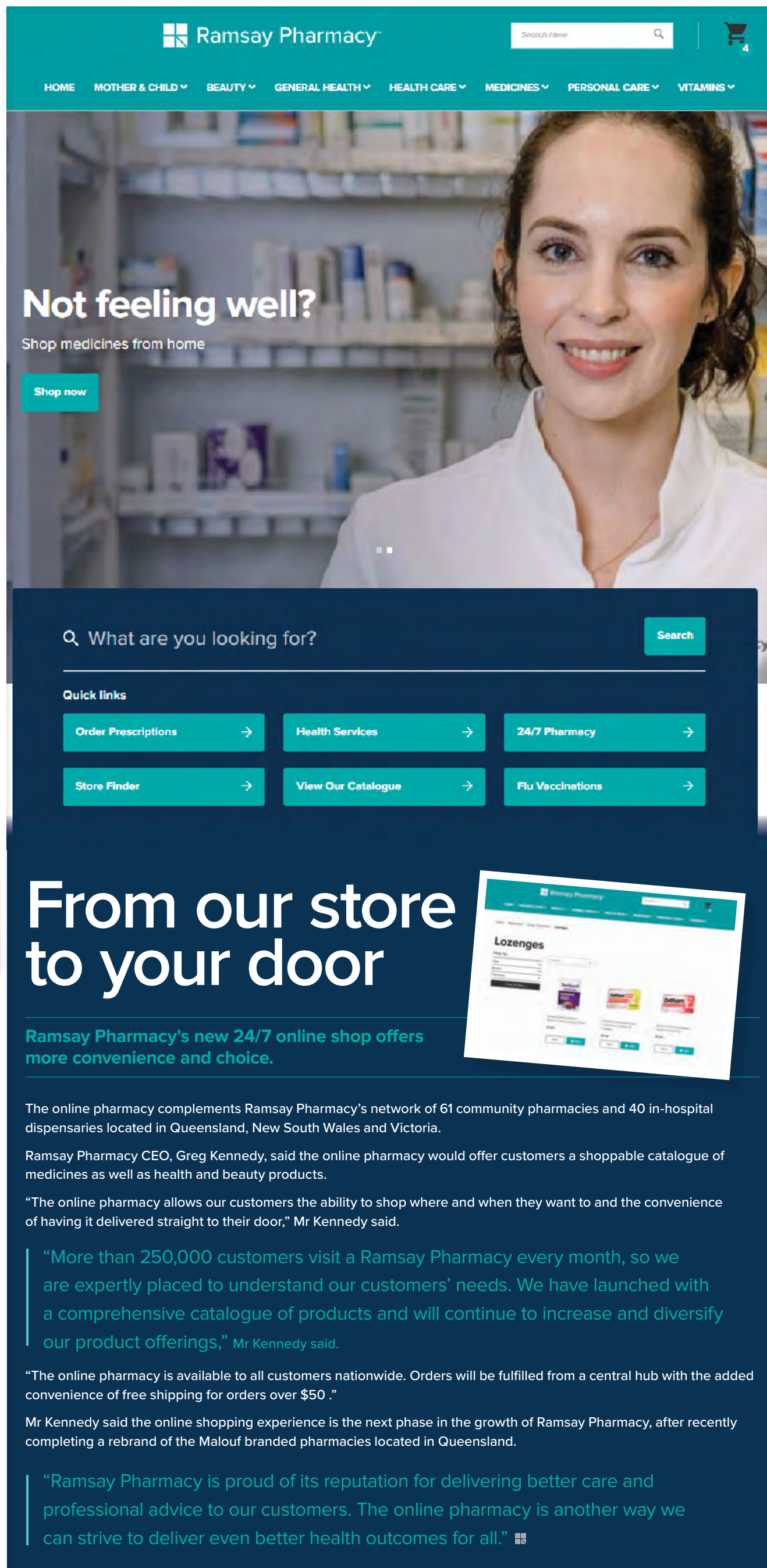
Residents in WA now have access to Ramsay Psychology and Ramsay Health Plus services under one roof at three new locations in Joondalup, Mount Pleasant and West Perth.



Ramsay's Chief Operating Officer for Out of Hospital services, Andrew Smith, said "the practices include Ramsay Psychology - Australia's fastest growing and most expansive national psychology business – and allied health services through Ramsay Health Plus – Australia's largest private allied health team."

“Our teams of psychologists provide personalised care for adults, teenagers, children, couples and families across a wide range of mental health conditions and symptoms - from anxiety and depression to relationship problems, or coping with significant change and stress due to the pandemic and economic factors.

“Allied health services include physiotherapy, dietetics, occupational therapy, speech pathology and more. Our specialists can also help link people to other health services they may need.” 





Hillcrest Rockhampton Private celebrates 1000 Mako cases

Congratulations to the team at Hillcrest Rockhampton Private Hospital on completing the hospital's 1000th MAKO robotic case.

By reaching this milestone, Hillcrest became the fastest growing site (since day of installation) in Queensland. They have achieved 1,000 Mako procedures in just over 33 months.

To celebrate, Stryker arranged balloons and a cake to share with all theatre teams led by Hillcrest orthopaedic surgeons Dr James Roche, Dr Glenn Gomez, Dr Rishi Kaushal and Dr Will Pretorius. ■■



Robotic tech offers more options for patients at Port Macquarie Private Hospital

Women in Port Macquarie and surrounding areas now have access to robotic assisted surgery for gynaecological procedures, with Port Macquarie Private Hospital's Da Vinci robot now being used for the speciality.

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Dr Masih Ashrafy performed the first gynaecological surgery using the robot, a hysterectomy and bilateral salpingectomy, with the support of Dr Dean Conrad from Ramsay's Kareena Private Hospital in Sydney.

Dr Ashrafy said the robot is designed to improve the surgical experience and recovery time for patients.

"The robot allows us to perform surgeries with minimal invasion which can mean shorter hospital stays and a less painful recovery for patients," Dr Ashrafy said.

"Once trained, surgeons can use it for many gynaecological surgeries, offering a new option for traditional procedures.

"This is a great opportunity for patients who want to have minimally invasive gynaecological procedures close to home."

The Da Vinci robot has been at Port Macquarie Private Hospital since 2020 and is also used for urology and general surgery procedures.



Port Macquarie Private Hospital CEO, Moira Finch, said she was pleased the robot could now also be used to benefit patients needing gynaecological procedures.

"Port Macquarie Private Hospital has invested in technology designed to improve patient experience and outcomes. I'm delighted even more local community members can benefit from this state-of-the-art technology in their own region." ■■

North Shore Private now offering ERCP

The team at North Shore Private Hospital recently accomplished a significant milestone by successfully completing the hospital's first Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) case in the North Shore Health Hub.

ERCP combines the power of endoscopy and X-rays to examine and treat conditions affecting the bile and pancreatic ducts. By offering this advanced technique, North Shore Private is one of a select few hospitals providing this highly specialised service.

The new service is available with gastroenterologist Professor Ian Norton and supports the existing range of endoscopic services at North Shore Private. ■■



Good Samaritan Jackie helps save neighbours

Off-duty Peninsula Private Hospital EEN, Jackie Baldwin and her husband have come to the aid of a member of the community who was in cardiac arrest after being alerted to the situation by the GoodSAM app, a volunteer service run by Ambulance Victoria.



Jackie and her husband Jason were heading out to dinner when alerted to a person in cardiac arrest nearby. “Upon arrival I commenced my first ever attempt at CPR on an actual person and, between myself and hubby doing effective chest compressions, we managed to get the patient back into agonal breathing before Ambulance Victoria arrived,” Jackie said. “The patient was the neighbour of very good friends of ours, so we have had regular updates on his progress. After we performed CPR, the patient had two more cardiac arrests later that night before undergoing surgery to have coronary artery bypass and placement of a mechanical valve. The patient has now been home for a couple of weeks and is doing well.”



Greenslopes Private Hospital marks two decades of pioneering targeted prostate cancer treatment

Icon Cancer Centre at Greenslopes Private Hospital is celebrating the 20th anniversary of offering low-dose-rate (LDR)-brachytherapy, a targeted, minimally invasive prostate cancer treatment.

LDR-brachytherapy involves inserting into the prostate radioactive ‘seeds’ that are designed to allow radiation to target cancer cells, while minimising damage to surrounding healthy tissue.

The team, consisting of Icon Cancer Centre Radiation Oncologist, A/Prof Kumar Gogna; Consultant Urologist, Dr Glen Wood; and Medical Physicist, Mr Adrian Gibbs, introduced this state-of-the-art treatment to Greenslopes Private two decades ago, effectively pioneering the treatment in Queensland. Today, this three-person clinical team is continuing to serve person and, between local prostate cancer patients.

According to A/Prof Gogna, the adoption of the LDR-brachytherapy procedure at Greenslopes Private Hospital expanded the treatment options available to Queenslanders living with prostate cancer.

“My colleagues and I are proud to have been Queensland’s first adopters of LDR-brachytherapy two decades ago – an evidence-based, minimally invasive treatment that we continue to offer eligible prostate cancer patients today.

“Nowadays, we remain as equally committed to providing the best possible care and support, including proven, world-class treatments, to our patients living with prostate cancer, and other urological conditions,” said A/Prof Gogna.

According to Dr Wood, who is also current Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee at Greenslopes Private Hospital, offering a full spectrum of care for patients living with prostate cancer remains a priority for Greenslopes.

“Prostate cancer is an individual disease, so it is crucial that a chosen treatment plan is tailored to each individual patient.”

1000 reasons to celebrate

Congratulations to St George Private Hospital VMO Dr Danny Chou who celebrated 1,000 Da Vinci robotic cases in July.

Dr Chou said: “Advanced robotic surgery allows more surgical precision particularly with complex and severe pathology like multiorgan Endometriosis, such as Endometriosis involving bowel, renal tract, vagina and diaphragm.

“Thank you to the St George Private robotic team for making 1000 cases possible.”



TRANSFORMATION AND DIGITAL ENABLEMENT

Transforming to create a best-in-class digitally enabled healthcare ecosystem

Celebrating significant strides in digital healthcare transformation

Australia's largest private hospital operator, Ramsay Health Care, has made significant strides in the first year of its Transformation and Digital Enablement program designed to cement the organisation's position as a world leading healthcare provider.

Ramsay Health Care Group Chief Digital and Data Officer, Rachna Gandhi, said the first year of the transformation involved laying the groundwork for developing a best-in-class digitally enabled health care ecosystem as part of Ramsay's commitment to offering excellent clinical care.

"Our vision is simple. This transformation will deliver seamless, patient-centred, digitally enabled care that supports better outcomes for our patients, doctors and teams. The goal is to modernise and grow our world-class network and create a platform for growth," Dr Gandhi said.

"Our efforts this year have been focused on establishing key cultural and foundational capabilities and disciplines that are critical to the long-term success of this transformation, delivering quick wins aligned to our business priorities and initiating the substantial multi-year projects that will underpin the transformation.

"One priority is to create a single entry into Ramsay's digital ecosystem. Built using modern cloud-based technology, this platform will seamlessly connect the patient, their specialist and Ramsay sites and services.

"The first iteration of the platform, the patient facing product, will be trialled this month across two Ramsay sites. The platform includes a pre-admission dashboard, digital consent capabilities and payment systems, giving patients one central place to easily complete all their admission tasks.

"The platform will mature and scale over the next few years but we're proud this first iteration will offer an improved patient admission experience."

Dr Gandhi said building a data and insight informed organisation is another priority.

A data science team has been set up, with a focus on predictive insights to help Ramsay use data that promotes action to improve patient experiences and outcomes.

"We have recently launched real-time insight suites, built

in-house, which bring together selected data that was previously held across multiple systems. These insight suites will provide actionable, timely insights and analysis for our senior executives," she said.

"Data management will improve significantly when we launch our Data Hub in the very near future. It will offer a single, secure source of truth for patient data.

"The Data Hub will allow us to securely and cost-effectively record, store and analyse our own real-time data, as well as large volumes of diverse, raw data. We will be able to deliver insights-driven business transformation, including streamlining clinical data to provide clinicians with easy access to critical information.

"This transformation is also about evolving Ramsay's culture to be more adaptive and helping our workforce understand and take advantage of the digital world. As part of this transformation, we are developing a digital mindset and literacy program of work."

Dr Gandhi said the program has already delivered valuable outcomes including the launch of Ramsay's first digital pharmacy, Ramsay Pharmacy Online, and several automations to optimise operational performance within Ramsay hospitals.

"We made strong progress in the first year and there is significant work required over the next few years to ensure we can truly capture the significant benefits that are possible for Ramsay."

Dr Gandhi says the program's success can be credited to strong collaboration with stakeholders and partners, using a test-learn-iterate approach and having an unwavering focus on creating value for patients, doctors and the business. ■

Mt Wilga leading the way with NDIS services

Eight years ago, Mt Wilga Private Hospital CEO Lorrie Mohsen and the Ramsay Health Plus team launched the hospital's pilot National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Service.

While not without challenge, the team quickly learnt and adapted to working within the newly introduced scheme and the service has seen significant growth.

The team now delivers over 500 NDIS-funded allied health outpatient appointments each month (onsite and in the community) and has developed significant disability-specific skills and expertise in the process.

More recently, Mt Wilga has also begun offering NDIS-funded temporary accommodation. Staying in repurposed vacant rooms, NDIS Participants can stay onsite at the hospital for up to 90 days and receive allied health services from the RHP team at the same time.

Following the success seen by the team at Mt Wilga, Tiffany Boland (National NDIS Coordinator) is now leading our efforts to scale-up Ramsay's NDIS Service offering. RHP teams in Cairns (QLD), Tunstall Square (VIC) and Frankston (VIC) have become 'NDIS-Registered' Providers and are enjoying the challenge of working with new cohorts both in the community and in their new clinic facilities.

Ramsay also now has two 'NDIS-Registered' Pharmacies in Mackay (QLD) and Coffs Harbour (NSW) providing equipment and personal care supplies to NDIS participants living in the community.

Ms Boland said:

"It is exciting to see this emerging service come to life, and wonderful to see such enthusiasm for this service across sites. About 6000 people are NDIS participants and making our service accessible to people with disability means many can use their funding to access the skills and expertise held by our incredible allied health teams." ■



Opening of the Mt Wilga Mobility Garden

"A purpose built space for recovery through therapy"

On Friday 30 June 2023, staff, patients and visitors of Mt Wilga Private Hospital and Ramsay Health Plus Mt Wilga came together to celebrate the long-awaited opening of the a Outdoor Mobility Garden. This project has been a 27-month journey from concept to completion with the official ribbon cutting being performed by the Federal Member for Berowra, Mr Julian Leeser MP.

Following consultations with the allied health team and patients, and with the help of a landscape designer, the area was transformed. A relatively vacant space of grass and clover is now a rejuvenated, innovative and welcoming area for all people at the hospital.

The design allows access through the garden via the main wheelchair accessible path but also offers areas specifically for therapy including challenging surfaces for mobility, a stair platform, curving ramp, raised garden beds, a rotary washing line, stepping stones and an area for threshold step practice.

Mt Wilga's Director of Allied Health, Jennifer King, said:

"The positive influences for patients accessing outdoor areas in a hospital environment cannot be understated. It is so wonderful to see patients and NDIS participants enjoying this area with their allied health therapists as well as their families during their time at Mt Wilga Private Hospital." ■■



New health hub for Brisbane's bayside

Redland City residents needing surgery will soon have a new option close to home with a \$16 million surgical centre to be opened in Cleveland.

The Ramsay Surgical Centre Cleveland will be a purpose built, world-class surgical facility with an emphasis on digitisation, offering the latest technology to enhance the patient experience.

Ramsay Surgical Centres CEO, Claire Thurwood, said:

"We're excited to provide the community access to a new surgical centre that will allow locals access to high-quality health care outside the traditional hospital setting."

"For Redland City residents this should take some of the stress out of their surgeries, knowing they're close to home and only have a short commute following their procedure."

Ramsay Surgical Centre Cleveland will include three purpose-built surgical theatres and offer specialities including Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, General Surgery, Endoscopy, ENT, Urology, Plastic Surgery and Gynaecology. ■■



Ramsay Health Care congratulates doctors recognised on the King’s Honours List

Several Ramsay doctors have been recognised for their valuable contribution to healthcare.

This year’s Honours List recognised a total of 1,192 Australians, including awards in the Order of Australia, meritorious awards, and recognition for distinguished and conspicuous service.

Ramsay doctors included on the list include:

- **Hollywood Private Hospital’s Dr David Blacker**, named a Member (AM) in the General Division for significant service to medicine, and to neurological research.
- **Ramsay Clinic Northside’s Professor Philip Boyce**, named a Member (AM) in the General Division for significant service to psychiatric research and education.
- **Castlecrag Private Hospital’s Dr Brett O’Donnell** was awarded an OAM Medal acknowledging his service to Ophthalmology.
- **North Shore Private Hospital’s Professor Michael Tonkin**, named a Member (AM) in the General Division for significant service to medicine as a hand surgeon, and to professional associations.
- **Greenslopes Private Hospital’s Professor Michael Whitby**, named a Member (AM) in the General Division for significant service to medicine in the field of infectious diseases, and to tertiary education.



Dr David Blacker



Professor Phillip Boyce



Professor Michael Whitby



Anaesthetic Technician cadets start at Hollywood

As part of Ramsay’s National Cadetship Program, in conjunction with North Metropolitan TAFE, Hollywood Private Hospital welcomed Anaesthetic Technicians for their first practical placement.

Anaesthetic Technicians play a critical role in supporting the Anaesthetist and the role requires a wide range of complex skills and extensive knowledge to perform safely and effectively in the workplace.

As part of the two-week placement, the first four cadets were exposed to a variety of surgical procedures, observing the anaesthetist and their anaesthetic mentor play a critical role in supporting quality healthcare and safe anaesthetic services within a multidisciplinary team environment.

Feedback from the cadets was that everyone was really welcoming and friendly and Hollywood is a great place to work.



Hillcrest team promote Ramsay at local careers expo

The Hillcrest Rockhampton Private Hospital and Ramsay Health plus Rockhampton team combined to attend the Capricorn Mega Careers Expo hosted by CQ University.

This year was the largest in the event’s history with 95 exhibitors and 950 high school students from 13 schools across Rockhampton and Yeppoon attending, in addition, to the general public and university students.

The team focused on presenting the diversity of careers available with Ramsay Health and the opportunity for movement across Ramsay’s global network.

The Ramsay Health Plus team injected some fun into the day by facilitating a vertical jump assessment incorporated into a lighthearted competition amongst the students.

Vale Wayne Williams



A message from Andrew Tome, Hollywood Private Hospital CEO

Our friend and colleague Wayne Williams passed away on July 6, at Hollywood Private Hospital.

Wayne had worked at Hollywood for 49 years, starting in a junior clerical role at just 19 when Hollywood was still a repatriation hospital. He stayed on when Ramsay bought the hospital in February 1994.

From that date to late 2021 Wayne was integral as the hospital’s Development Manager. He co-ordinated between architects, builders, doctors, the Health Dept (LARU), tenants, clinical and corporate staff and the Hollywood and Ramsay Executive.

Wayne worked on every development since privatisation including Bullwinkel, Leach, 20 operating theatres, 4 Cath labs, all the Ramsay Clinics, the Specialist, Medical and Consulting centres, both multistorey car parks, Brislee and Perry Wings including the new ED.

Wayne served with all Hollywood Private Hospital CEOs – Roger Snell, Kevin Cass-Ryall, Peter Mott, and myself.

In his time, he also managed all building and grounds and most corporate service areas including Catering, Security, Engineering, WH&S, Gardeners, and Support Services.

However, without doubt, Wayne’s greatest achievement was the way he worked with people. Wayne was always polite, always a gentleman, always acting with honesty and integrity. Nothing was too much trouble. Everyone was important. He was respected and liked by all who worked with and alongside him.

Often called “Mr Hollywood”, Wayne epitomised our Ramsay values. 🏡

Movements and Appointments

CHRISTIAN BECH HØNGAARD

has joined Ramsay as the Strategy Operations Officer. Christian was formerly the CEO at Capio Denmark Private Hospital. Christian joined Capio Denmark in 2020 and has a strong track record in successful business development. Prior to joining Capio, he held senior management positions with a leading medical appliances supplier in the United States. Capio is owned by Ramsay Sante and Christian’s relocation is a great example of Ramsay’s commitment to supporting career development and building constructive relationships across the global business.

DAVID DINEEN

has been appointed as the Deputy Director of Clinical Services at Hollywood Private Hospital. David started his career as an Assistant in Nursing in Ireland in 2001 before embarking on his studies to become a Registered Nurse. After he moved to Australia David started working at Hollywood Private Hospital as a Registered Nurse in orthopaedics in 2013. David’s leadership skills were evident from the start. He was promoted to Clinical Nurse in 2015 and then Clinical Nurse Manager in 2018. In 2022, David commenced the Nurse Leaders of Tomorrow program.

SHANE KELLY

has joined Ramsay as Western Australia State Manager. Shane has extensive experience in both private and public health sectors with his most recent role as the Group Chief Executive Officer St John of God Health Care where he led the organisation through the pandemic. Shane’s prior roles include the Group Chief Executive Officer of Mater Misericordiae, Chief Executive Officer of St John of God Hospital Subiaco, and Chief Executive at North Metropolitan Health Service. Shane completed his medical degree at the University of Western Australia and later a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Public Health. Shane has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and an unwavering commitment to delivering outstanding patient care.

GREG KENNEDY

has had his role expanded to include psychology, now serving as CEO Ramsay Pharmacy and Ramsay Psychology. Greg joined Ramsay Pharmacy as COO in 2019 and was promoted to CEO within six months. Before joining Ramsay, Greg worked at Coles, Wesfarmers and Canterbury gaining more than 20 years of management experience.

MICHELLE LYNCH

has had her role expanded to include psychology, now serving as COO Ramsay Pharmacy and Ramsay Psychology. Michelle has been with Ramsay since 2016, working as the National Hospital Pharmacy Manager and the General Manager of Pharmacy Operations before becoming Ramsay Pharmacy COO in 2021. Prior to joining Ramsay, Michelle served as Board Director and National Vice-President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

DEBRA MASLEN

has been appointed CEO and Director of Clinical Services at Tamara Private Hospital. Debra has served as the CEO and DCS at Armidale Private Hospital since late 2022 and formerly held management positions at Tamara Private. During her time at Armidale, Debra has formed strong relationships with VMOs, staff and the Armidale community. Armidale has increased public contract work whilst maintaining private services, thus playing an important role in serving the health care needs of the community.

KERRY MAY

has joined Ramsay as the Chief Executive Officer at France Perry House. Kerry has extensive experience as a health care executive in both the private and public sector, most recently at Epworth Eastern as the Executive General Manager. With broad operational and strategic expertise, a strong connection to her clinical background and a passion and commitment to her team and colleagues, Kerry will fit well into the Frances Perry House and wider Ramsay Health Care team.

DAVID MCGRATH

has been appointed as the Director of Mental Health External Affairs. David has been an instrumental leader of Ramsay Psychology’s growth in the last three years, with 18 Clinics now open servicing a national

footprint and psychology services being delivered via telehealth. David will maintain a clinical connection to Ramsay Psychology, committing one day per week to support Ramsay Psychologists across the network.

MAREE MENDOLA

has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer at Warringal Private Hospital. Maree has more than 20 years’ experience in health care after starting as a registered nurse in the perioperative environment. Maree joined Ramsay in 2004 and worked as the Perioperative Services Manager and Director of Clinical Services at Frances Perry House and Mitcham Private Hospital. Maree most recently worked as the Chief Executive Officer of our East Metro Network (Mitcham and Waverley Private Hospitals). Maree has proven herself to be an outstanding leader, with a track record of success in delivering both organisational strategy and operational improvements.

PETER MOTT

has been appointed WA Government Relations Manager. Since his ‘retirement’ from the Hollywood CEO role in May 2022, Peter has been the WA State Manager on a part-time basis where he has focused on fostering collaboration between our facilities and driving growth. Peter’s existing relationships with external and government stakeholders have strengthened our position in WA and we look forward to seeing him continue this important work in his new role.

WARREN RIVETT

has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Mitcham Private Hospital. Warren has been an integral part of Ramsay since 2016 and brings a wealth of experience and expertise as an executive leader. Warren has most recently held the Director of Clinical Services role at both Linacre and Peninsula Private Hospitals and more recently the Deputy CEO role across our Bayside Network (Peninsula, Beleura and Linacre Private Hospitals). Warren is an exceptional communicator, with strengths in new clinical service development, improving patient satisfaction and investing in our people.

KIM UNTHANK

has been appointed as the Director of Clinical Services at Mitcham Private Hospital. Kim has more than 17 years of clinical experience at Ramsay Health Care, starting her nursing career at Mitcham Private as a graduate nurse. Maree then worked as the Associate Unit Manager at Mitcham Private before spending time at Masada Private Hospital and mostly recently working as Nurse Unit Manager at Peninsula Private Hospital. Kim has successfully completed the Nursing Leaders of Tomorrow program, and her experience will provide a terrific foundation as she moves into this role.

JAMIE WANN

has joined Ramsay as the Director of Clinical Services at St Andrew’s Ipswich Private Hospital. Jamie has extensive experience in all aspects of nursing management and has completed multiple Masters degrees with including Facility Management, Education and Mental Health. Jamie’s most recent experience has been as Director of Nursing at St Andrews Hospital Toowoomba.

KELLY WRIGHT

has been appointed as the Director of Clinical Services at Baringa Private Hospital, having acted in this position since October 2022. Kelly has been working at Baringa Private since 2017 as a Registered Nurse, Paediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist and most recently as Senior Nurse Educator. Kelly is a graduate of the Ramsay Nurse Leaders of Tomorrow program. Kelly is well respected by doctors and staff and always calm and in control.

MATTHEW WRIGHT

has been appointed as Deputy CEO of Joondalup Health Campus. Matthew has been serving as CEO of Peel Health Campus for the past year and prior to that spent four years at Joondalup Health Campus as the Contract Manager. Matthew has also held senior positions in a number of industries where he was responsible for financial management, mergers and acquisitions in both Australia and the UK. Matthew has displayed great leadership as CEO of Peel Health Campus.

New President of AMA Victoria

Congratulations to Dr Jill Tomlinson who has been elected President of the Australian Medical Association of Victoria.

Dr Tomlinson is a plastic and hand surgeon who operates at The Avenue Hospital and Ramsay Surgical Centre Glenferrie and is a member of the Ramsay Women in Medicine Doctor Advisory Panel.

Dr Tomlinson has over 20 years of clinical, research and leadership experience and is an alumni of both Melbourne and Monash Universities. A gender equality and digital health advocate,

Dr Tomlinson has received national awards and held leadership positions in organisations including the Victorian Medical Women’s Society, the Australian Federation of Medical Women, and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. 🏡





Lake Macquarie Private Hospital celebrates 50 years

Lake Macquarie Private Hospital has toasted 50 years of providing leading private healthcare services to the Hunter Region.

After opening in 1973 with just 36 beds, the hospital is on its way to becoming a 248 private inpatient beds facility with 14 operating theatres, three cardiac catheterisation labs plus hybrid and vascular labs, critical care, intensive care, an enhanced 24 hr emergency department, as well as on site radiology and oncology services.

CEO Sharon Rewitt said the hospital continues to grow in response to community demand for its services.

“We’re currently undergoing a multi-million dollar redevelopment so we can care for even more of our local community members,” Ms Rewitt said.

“Wherever possible, we want Hunter residents to be able to avoid travelling to Brisbane, Sydney or Canberra to access the private health care services they require. We’re

committed to offering vital services close to home in a purpose-built facility incorporating advanced technology including our Da Vinci robot.”

“The best feature of Lake Macquarie Private however, in my opinion, is the wonderful team of experienced and caring people we have working here.”

Lake Macquarie Private Hospital has been leading the way in regional healthcare for decades. In 1986 the hospital opened a brand-new angiography suite, the first private cardiac angiography unit between Sydney and Brisbane. In 2015 Lake Macquarie Private Hospital opened the region’s first private emergency department.

The hospital’s Director of Finance, Lee Sexton, has been working at Lake Macquarie Private for more than 33 years.

“It’s quite incredible to reflect on what the hospital was when I began, to where it is now, and what is on the horizon for this great facility,” Ms Sexton said.

“By far and without a doubt the best thing about working at Lake Macquarie Private is the people. I’ve made so many lifelong friends, had some amazing mentors along the way and been fortunate to work with so many amazing and diverse individuals.” ■

Celebrating 10 Years of Caring for Families at North West Private

The team at North West Private Hospital’s Early Parenting Centre celebrated a decade of dedicated service to local families.

The North West Early Parenting Centre, originally known as the Brisbane Nurture Centre, was the first mother-baby unit in a private hospital in Queensland. Since 2013 the team has helped more than 4,000 families to establish healthy feeding and sleeping patterns and helped parents create a strong bond with their baby. ■

