

The Ramsay Way

Ramsay Health Care Corporate Newsletter



Ramsay
Health Care



Ramsay among world's top companies for women

A global survey has named Ramsay Health Care among the world's top six healthcare companies for women employees.

The survey of approximately 70,000 women across 37 countries by US business magazine Forbes and market research firm Statista recognises companies excelling at providing crucial benefits that aid in attracting and retaining female talent.

The World's Top Companies For Women 2023 rates the businesses on general workplace practices and gender-specific issues, including gender pay equity, flexible work arrangements, skill development programs and advancement opportunities.

Ramsay Health Care is ranked sixth in the healthcare industry globally and 379th across all companies. Ramsay is the highest ranked healthcare organisation based in Australia.

Ramsay Health Care CEO, Carmel Monaghan, said the listing reflects Ramsay's commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable work environment.

"We recognise that our people are our most important asset and key to the organisation's ongoing success. Our Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Belonging strategy was established to help drive business results by assisting us to attract, recruit,

engage and retain a diverse group of talented people," Ms Monaghan said.

"We want a workforce that is as diverse as the communities we serve.

"To do this, we're working hard to ensure our employees feel engaged, valued and well-supported in their day-to-day roles and in pursuit of their professional goals." ■■

Ramsay on track with net zero ambition and sustainability goals

Ramsay Health Care is on track to reach its net zero 2040 greenhouse gas emissions ambition following a successful year of sustainability activities.

Ramsay's 2023 Impact Report shows how the leading private healthcare provider has ramped up renewable energy initiatives, recycling, removing single-use plastic products and phasing out anaesthetic gases with higher global warming potential.

In June 2022, Ramsay committed to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, with a near-term target to reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions by 42% by 2030.

At 30 June 2023, the Ramsay group's emissions were down by 9% on the previous year, despite growth in activity and acquisitions, and is on track to achieve the near-term target against a 2020 baseline.

Ramsay Health Care Australia CEO, Carmel Monaghan, said a major milestone was generating more than 4-million kilowatt hours of renewable electricity since Ramsay's solar program started rolling out.

"Our hospital rooftop solar program is just one example of the fantastic environmental initiatives happening across Ramsay," she said.

"Our doctors, theatre nurses and procurement team have been working together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from anaesthetic gases, and we've seen a 38% reduction in emissions from desflurane use compared to last year.

"We're also really focused on making positive changes for our people and communities. From recycling uniforms and donating surplus medical equipment to developing countries, there's an incredible range of inspiring and generous ideas."



Ramsay Global CEO and Managing Director, Craig McNally, said a highlight had been a renewed focus on promoting inclusion and diversity.

"Ramsay has a terrifically diverse workforce, which gives us a real advantage when it comes to understanding our patients and coming up with new ideas," he said.

"As the Impact Report shows, we've been creating new forums to build social support and a sense of community for our people to feel energised by what we can achieve together." ■■



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the fourth and final edition of The Ramsay Way for 2023.

It has been a turbulent year both overseas and at home, yet our teams around the country exhibited qualities of patience, adaptability and kindness. In caring for our patients and supporting each other through these times, we reaffirm Ramsay's purpose of 'people caring for people' and I see examples of it every day and everywhere in this organisation.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to thank each and every member of the Ramsay family for your ongoing commitment to our patients and colleagues. On reflection, we have achieved a lot this year.

If there was a silver lining to come from Covid, it has been the way Ramsay has refocused and rebuilt our learning and development programs to support our people to reskill and upskill and enjoy a rewarding career. Our people are our most important asset and key to the organisation's ongoing success.

I am proud of the fact that in recent years we have invested more than ever in growing our people and improving the environment they work in through professional development and leadership training.

Our new cadet programs and the reengineering of our graduate program should help us attract the health care workers of the future. In early 2024, we will launch the Ramsay Australia Leadership Academy to provide a program of learning that is specifically tailored to the needs of Ramsay leaders. We have been overwhelmed by applicants for the fully funded nurse practitioner places with various universities and we also have great opportunities for mental health nurses and perioperative nurses that will give our existing workforce exciting options for career advancement.

The other key journey in recent years has been our focus on turning Ramsay into a leading digital and data-driven healthcare organisation. This investment will transform Ramsay into the benchmark for patient-centred integrated care.

Already, we are seeing the benefits of our digital investment in our hospitals and clinics. I am looking forward to seeing how these initiatives grow in coming years to support clinical decision-making and patient outcomes. We want our tech transformation to make Ramsay an even better place to work and a leader in providing modern healthcare for more patients, in more places.

Our focus on sustainability continues. Thanks to your commitment, we are on track to save 75 million single use plastic items from landfill this year – a great achievement! We also recently hit a major milestone, generating more than 4-million kilowatt hours of renewable electricity since Ramsay's solar program started rolling out. And importantly, we have reduced our use of the environmentally harmful anaesthetic gas, desflurane, by 51 per cent.

I am really looking forward to the opening of some major developments for Ramsay next year. Warringal Private's \$179.7million multi-tower expansion and the opening of the new \$133.4 million Northern Private Hospital at Epping, outside Melbourne will see the fruition of many months of hard work by our teams.

Outside of hospitals we should be very proud of Ramsay Connect in launching its new Virtual Heart Health Service last month, the launch of the ecommerce platform by Ramsay Pharmacy and the growth of our Ramsay Psychology business.

This edition of The Ramsay Way also features some exciting research projects helping share the future of health care, an outreach trip to Fiji by some of our wonderful VMOs from Ipswich, a first of its kind surgery for the Sunshine Coast and the official opening of the new Mental Health Unit at Joondalup Health Campus in Western Australia.

I'd like to again thank each of you for your commitment to our purpose of 'people caring for people', and wish you a happy, healthy summer. I look forward to another big year in 2024, when Ramsay Health Care will celebrate its 60th birthday.

Warm regards,

Carmel Monaghan
Chief Executive Officer, Ramsay Health Care Australia

CORPORATE NEWS

Young PNG doctor receives vital heart surgery at Lake Macquarie Private Hospital

Lake Macquarie Private Hospital doctors have performed potentially life-saving heart surgery on a young mother from Papua New Guinea, volunteering their time to do the mitral valve replacement procedure after hearing the vital procedure was not possible in PNG.



Dr Tina Yarong is one of two paediatricians at a 300-bed hospital in PNG and has experienced cardiac issues since childhood.

As symptoms intensified, Dr Yarong was told that surgery was required but not available in her home nation.

Lake Macquarie Private Hospital Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Dr Ross Mejia, said he was pleased to help.

"Tina's mitral valve was heavily diseased and without the surgery she would likely get more and more short of breath and then go into heart failure. On average her life expectancy without surgery would have been three to five years," Dr Mejia explained.

"When I received the letter asking if I'd be able to help Tina, I approached (Lake Macquarie Private Hospital CEO) Sharon Rewitt who was very willing. I then approached several other doctors, who all agreed without hesitation to do the surgery pro bono and Medtronic kindly donated the valve.

"It was fulfilling to be able to use our abilities and resources at Lake Macquarie Private Hospital to help someone in need of this challenging surgery. This procedure is something we do regularly, but I understand it's not available in PNG."

Dr Yarong said she and her family rejoiced at the news.

"Over the last two years, I progressively became symptomatic with increased tiredness and atrial fibrillations. Surgery wasn't available in PNG so I sought quotations from the Philippines and India," Dr Yarong said.

"In the process of fundraising for the surgery, a colleague in PNG reached out to (Hunter Valley doctor) Professor John Fergusson who contacted Dr Mejia and the arrangements that have since come to pass are a blessing."

Dr Yarong is now undergoing rehabilitation and looking forward to returning home.

"I am looking forward to reuniting with my sons and family. I also plan to return to work and continue providing child health specialist services.

"My family and I are indebted to Professor John Ferguson and Dr Mejia for initiating this journey of mine. It has been an amazing experience."

Lake Macquarie Private Hospital CEO Sharon Rewitt said she was pleased the hospital could help Dr Yarong.

"We're proud to help Hunter region locals each and every day, and it was wonderful to be able to extend that help to Dr Yarong." ■■

Ramsay partners with The Pinnacle Foundation

Ramsay Health Care has signed on as a Gold Partner of Australia's leading LGBTQIA+ education charity, The Pinnacle Foundation.

The three-year partnership will see *The Ramsay Health Care Scholarship* awarded annually to young LGBTQIA+ Australians studying in medical or healthcare related fields to undertake fulltime tertiary studies.

Ramsay's Chief Risk Officer and Legal Services Director, and Chair of the Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging Committee, Channele McEnallay, said she hopes the scholarships will help some young Australians to realise their full potential.

"After meeting with The Pinnacle Foundation, I was absolutely blown away by their stories and their journey," Ms McEnallay said.

"Ramsay's Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging Committee is committed to seeking opportunities to support medical and health care professionals to overcome challenges arising from their identity.

"In Australia we operate 74 facilities, employing more than 30,000 people. Our aim is to have a workforce as diverse as the communities we operate in.

"We're proud to partner with The Pinnacle Foundation for the next three years and look forward to welcoming our scholarship applicants to the Ramsay family." ■■



Ramsay Health Hub



First sites trial Ramsay Health Hub

Ramsay’s new digital patient admission platform, the Ramsay Health Hub, launched in two sites in August, at The Avenue Private Hospital and Ramsay Surgical Centre Glenferrie in Melbourne.

The Ramsay Health Hub is Ramsay’s new digital “front door”, connecting patients, doctors and hospital teams. Ramsay Health Hub makes it easy for doctors to submit referrals and for patients to fill out hospital admission and consent forms. It also sends automatic updates to patients and gives them access to a 24/7 support line. The aim is to make the referral and admission process quicker, simpler and more convenient.

In November, Ramsay Health Hub was rolled out to Short Street Day Surgery and Caboolture Private Hospital in Queensland, and work is currently underway to extend the pilot to a further five sites soon.

Ramsay Health Care joins forces with Google Cloud to help support its 2030 Digital Strategy

Ramsay has selected Google Cloud as its data and innovation partner to support the company’s 2030 digital transformation strategy. Ramsay will collaborate with Google Cloud to give nurses, hospitals, and clinicians better access to patient data, and use Google Cloud’s artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) tools as part of its commitment to offering gold standard clinical care.

Soon, clinicians could be able to utilise AI-powered risk assessment tools to help proactively identify patients at risk of illness. By analysing vast amounts of patient data—vital signs, labs, notes, and more—the hospital’s AI algorithms will help spot patterns and risk factors to help doctors more effectively diagnose conditions.

“Data and AI can have a profound impact on reimagining health care and solving some of our most pressing challenges,” said Dr Rachna Gandhi, Group Chief Digital and Data Officer at Ramsay Health Care.

“With Google Cloud, we’re taking an insights-driven approach to transforming how we deliver clinical care—everything from optimising patient care and experiences to identifying trends and supporting better decisions about treatments.”

Creating a centralised data hub is a critical component in delivering on the health care provider’s 2030 digital strategy. Ramsay has a network of more than 70 hospitals, clinics, and surgical centres across the country. Previously, data sat in separate on-premise locations, making analysis and insights extraction a time-intensive and cumbersome process.

Data security and privacy

Google Cloud’s responsible approach to data governance and privacy ensures only Ramsay controls access and use of patient’s data.

“Most important to us is data security. With Google Cloud, data is encrypted end-to-end, allowing us to create innovative solutions that strictly comply with regulations and protect privacy. All data is encrypted by default at rest and in-flight and we are using our own encryption keys to further protect the sensitive confidential health information. No one accesses our patient data except us. For health care providers, that is non-negotiable,” said Dr Gandhi.

Reimagining the future of healthcare with data and AI

Ramsay is now working with Google Cloud to build new AI-led health care solutions which will play a crucial role in streamlining clinical workflows and provide clinicians with easy access to critical information to enhance patient care, including:

- **Analysing clinical notes:** With new AI-powered tools, Ramsay clinicians will be able to extract insights to enhance clinical decision-making by identifying patterns and trends that may not be obvious.
- **Faster, accurate coding:** Ramsay is planning to use AI algorithms to optimise clinical coding, which will reduce the burden on medical coders and improve coding accuracy.
- **Improved demand forecasting:** Ramsay will utilise AI to ensure medications do not go to waste, and enable more systematic allocation of procedures to optimise theatre and staff utilisation, leading to cost savings, while ensuring there is no compromise to patient care.



Ramsay Pharmacy celebrates ‘A New Era’

Ramsay Pharmacy celebrated ‘A New Era’ at its annual Ramsay Pharmacy Conference in Brisbane in October.

Key leaders and managers across the Ramsay Pharmacy teams gathered over two days with key supply partners to listen to industry experts and guest speakers in line with the theme of ‘Empower, Educate and Exceed’.

The conference also marked the change in leadership in the Ramsay team with Michelle Lynch being appointed to the role of CEO, Ramsay Pharmacy and Psychology Group and Greg Kennedy taking up the role of COO, Out of Hospitals at Ramsay Health Care.

Greg Kennedy commented “the out of hospital businesses at Ramsay Health Care play a critical role in collaborating with the hospital network to deliver modern, sustainable and integrated healthcare services to our customers.

“The appointment of Michelle to the role, ensures the pharmacy and psychology business will have strong leadership and continue to grow.”

Michelle added “our Ramsay Pharmacy and Psychology teams are outstanding in their professionalism and care for our patients and I am delighted to continue to be leading this team with the appointment of my role as CEO.”



Ramsay Psychology opens two new practices



Mr Josh Burns MP, Member for Macnamara and Ms Nina Taylor MP, Member for Albert Park joined Michelle Lynch and COO – Out of Hospitals, Greg Kennedy at the opening of the 18th Ramsay Psychology Clinic, in South Melbourne.

Dr Katrina Stratton MP, Member for Nedlands joined CEO Ramsay Pharmacy and Psychology, Michelle Lynch and COO – Out of Hospitals, Greg Kennedy at the opening of the 19th Ramsay Psychology clinic, in West Perth.



Hi-tech heart failure service saving lives

A new, revolutionary heart failure service is helping keep patients out of hospital for longer and improving quality of life with hi-tech remote monitoring via the Virtual Heart Failure Service from Ramsay Connect.

As part of the program, heart failure patients receive technology and wearables to monitor their blood pressure, pulse, oxygen levels and weight from home.

Cardiovascular nurses remotely monitor the vital signs to detect any changes in patients early, which can prevent the need to go to hospital. As part of the program, regular virtual consultations with specialist nurses and allied health professionals also help patients to manage their medication, diet, exercise and mental health.

Early results from the program’s trial include 50 per cent reduction in hospital readmissions, improvements in mental health and medication adherence.

Latest data shows about 100,000 Australians aged over 45 have chronic heart failure.

Ramsay Connect CEO Ian Galvin said the Virtual Heart Failure Service was achieving improved health outcomes with patients empowered to better manage their condition and understand their symptoms.

“Chronic heart failure accounts for hundreds of preventable hospitalisations in Australia but with the right support, we can reduce the amount of time people spend in hospital,” Mr Galvin said.

“We know patients want flexibility in their care and they now have access to this program backed by specialist technology and a team of clinicians to provide the care they need at home.”





Joondalup's new Mental Health Unit opens

The Premier of Western Australia, the Hon. Roger Cook MLA, and Minister for Health and Mental Health, the Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA have officially opened a new world-class 102-bed Mental Health Unit at Joondalup Health Campus (JHC) which sets a new benchmark for care.

The facility is part of the \$269.4 million expansion of JHC campus co-funded by the State and Australian Governments and includes wards for adult patients and, for the first time, youth patients (16-24 years) and older adults (65+ years).

The wards include contemporary, recovery focused interiors with light-filled individual patient rooms, and shared lounge and dining facilities built around multiple landscaped courtyards for recreation including basketball, craft and ping pong.

Head of Service, Dr Martin Chapman said patient needs are met by specialised, multidisciplinary teams including doctors, nurses, allied health staff, and clinical psychologists who work in conjunction with in-reach services to support recovery.

“We are extremely proud to have such an outstanding facility which enhances the care and wellbeing of these patients,” said Dr Chapman.

A traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony was held to cleanse the Mental Health Unit before it opened to patients. Wadjuk man, Justin Martin, who has strong connections to the Joondalup area and the hospital, facilitated the ceremony, which was attended by the Executive, Senior Leadership and Mental Health teams, the Aboriginal Health Committee and members of the North Metropolitan Health Service Aboriginal Health team.

The opening of the Unit was quickly followed by the demolition of the old Mental Health Unit, making way for a five-storey, 112-bed public ward block, part of the next phase of works, to be completed by 2025, creating capacity for the increasing demands of the population with a 30-bed medical/surgical inpatient ward, a Cardiac Care Unit with 16 public beds, and two 30-bed wards which are planned to be fitted out at a later stage.

The Operating Department facilities will be increased with one new operating theatre adjacent to the existing 12 theatres taking the total to thirteen, one new Interventional Catheterisation Laboratory taking the total to two, one new, larger anaesthetic room taking the total to five; four additional Post Anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU) bed bays taking the total to 30; five additional pre-surgery holding bays taking the total to 15; and increased clinical support areas.



"Lived experience" makes an impact and is rewarded

Congratulations to Peninsula Private Hospital VMO, Dr Geoffrey Toogood, who was the winner of the “Lived experience” category at the 2023 Australian Mental Health Prize.

Dr Toogood established the Crazy Socks 4 Docs movement, aimed at normalising mental health conversations among health care practitioners.



Addressing the elephant in the room at Mitcham Private Hospital

The team at Mitcham Private Hospital got together over morning tea to celebrate Mental Health Week, which this year focussed on challenging some of the stereotypes and perceptions of mental illness.



Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation collaborates on Australian-first breast milk study



Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation (RHRF), in collaboration with Australian Red Cross Lifeblood, the University of Queensland and the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (MCRI), has announced the establishment of a new project that has been successful in gaining funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council as a part of the 2022 Partnership Projects funding initiative.

The RHRF has awarded \$720,000 in funding to support the project "Pasteurised donor human milk supplementation for term babies". This partnership aims to drive research dedicated to significantly improving outcomes for women and infants.

The research is being led by Associate Professor Jennifer Koplin from the University of Queensland's Child Health Research Centre and Dr Vanessa Clifford from MCRI. The research aims to evaluate short term supplementation of pasteurised donor human milk as a bridge to breastfeeding for term-born infants.

"This Australian-first research will answer questions about how donor milk should be used for term infants in Australia," A/Prof Koplin said.

The long-term health benefits of improving

breastfeeding rates may counteract health problems that disproportionately affect disadvantaged groups across Australia – including infant morbidity and mortality, poorer metabolic health, and maternal breast cancer.

Nicola Ware, CEO of the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation, highlighted the potential of this study in reshaping nutritional protocols for term-born infants across Ramsay Hospitals.

"If the proposed program of research demonstrates a benefit for donor human milk, this intervention could be rapidly implemented for the benefit of patients in Ramsay Hospitals," Ms Ware said.

"This will ultimately improve experience of patients and families who give birth at Ramsay."

Up to 40 per cent of term-born babies currently receive cow’s milk formula in the first week of life. Health outcomes for mothers and infants may be improved by use of pasteurised donor human milk instead of cow’s milk formula.

However, term-born infants currently do not have access to pasteurised donor human milk in Australia, due to lack of robust research evidence to support its use in infants born after 32 weeks gestation.

"The milk used in the trial will come from donations from mothers in Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide," Dr Clifford said.

"This project allows us to continue listening and responding to patients and staff and keeping at the forefront of health care delivery."

Cancer Clinical Trial shows positive results at Peninsula Private Hospital

A patient at Peninsula Private Hospital has gone into clinical remission following their participation in a pivotal clinical trial investigating the medicines zanubrutinib and obinutuzumab, in participants with B-cell lymphoid malignancies.



A new medicine called zanubrutinib is being studied for people with a certain type of blood cancer called chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) or small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL). These diseases can be harder to treat when a specific genetic change (called del(17p)) is present.

The patient is now on single agent zanubrutinib maintenance for CLL, which is in clinical remission.

The study is one of the longest running studies at Peninsula Private Hospital, starting in 2018. The research has witnessed seven patients at Peninsula achieve 'partial response,' indicating a significant reduction in cancerous cells (without full eradication), and these individuals continue to receive ongoing treatment or engage in follow-up disease assessments. Two patients have achieved a 'complete response,' marking the complete absence of detectable cancer.

The study results found that the combination treatment was generally well-tolerated in patients with the high-risk genetic change. Most patients didn't experience severe side effects.

The study is ongoing, and more information about safety and effectiveness will be shared in the future.



Congratulations Dr Cheah!

Congratulations to Hollywood Private Hospital Haematologist and Clinical Researcher, Professor Chan Cheah, who was named Cancer Council WA's 2023 Cancer Researcher of the Year. In 2016, Professor Cheah founded Blood Cancer Research in WA which has welcomed more than 800 people with lymphoma and blood cancers into clinical trials.

Ramsay celebrates life-changing research that is shaping the future of healthcare

Ramsay Health Care is currently involved in:

More than **1,750** clinical trials & research projects

Involving more than **550** clinicians

RAMSAY RESEARCH Month

More than 1,750 ground-breaking health research projects being conducted at Ramsay Health Care sites across Australia were recognised in September as part of Ramsay Research Month 2023.

Launching the four-week celebration of research success, Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation CEO, Nicola Ware, said more than 550 Ramsay doctors, nurses and allied health employees were involved in projects to find new treatments, medicines, therapies, and devices that would provide better healthcare for all Australians.

"We are proud to play a leading role in Australia's health and medical research sector," Ms Ware said.

"We are extremely appreciative of the hundreds of dedicated researchers and thousands of volunteer patients who are involved with a range of vital investigations and clinical trials."

Ramsay's Clinical Trials Network supports 250 high quality trials, focussing on cancer, mental health, orthopaedics and cardiology.

"The number of clinical trials we support has increased 11 per cent this year and we consistently receive requests for research support," Ms Ware said.

"We are delighted to highlight the critical role of health and medical research in supporting healthier communities and celebrate the incredible advancements being to improve patient outcomes."

6 The Ramsay Way 2023 | 04



Launch of Australia’s first evidence-based emotional support tools for early pregnancy loss

Up to one in four known pregnancies ends in early pregnancy loss, affecting about 147,000 Australian women per year. To better support these women and their partners and empower their healthcare providers, new emotional support and training tools have been launched in Ramsay Health Care hospitals. The patient support resources and staff training materials were developed as part of an Australian-first study investigating emotional care for early pregnancy loss in a private maternity hospital setting.

Principal Investigator Dr Marjolein Kammers said the resources were informed by interviewing patients, partners, midwives, nurses, obstetricians, anaesthetists and receptionists.

“We listened closely to everyone involved. That was crucial to create emotional support tools that complement each other, and target not only the patients but also partners as well as empowering healthcare providers who provide this important support,” Dr Kammers said.

“Based on the interviews, we’ve created a unique support booklet for patients and partners containing all the information they indicated they’d like to have in a written format. This includes acknowledgement of the emotional side of the loss, answers to frequently asked medical questions, the experiences of other bereaved parents, and information about where to go for additional emotional support.

“We’ve also created a staff training module which answers

the main questions that healthcare providers had. For example, how best to address the emotional side of the loss and what language to use when they refer to the pregnancy loss.”

Current Northern Private Hospital CEO Shaune Gillespie said the study was inspired after Dr Kammers experienced a difficult early pregnancy loss at Frances Perry House and approached him with the suggestion to add the acknowledgement of the emotional impact of early pregnancy loss to the medical discharge information.

“I arranged to meet with Marjolein to hear about her experiences and it became clear that we needed to change the way we approach the emotional side of early pregnancy loss,” Mr Gillespie said.

“We do the medical and treatment side really well. Now we want to empower our medical and nursing staff to journey alongside the patient and partner and support them through

the emotions associated with the loss. Marjolein was in a unique position to lead this study, being a psychologist, a scientific researcher, and a patient who had experienced multiple pregnancy losses.

“The support tools have now been successfully rolled out at Frances Perry House in Victoria and will soon be available through other Ramsay Health Care hospitals in New South Wales and Queensland.

“I want this program rolled out across all maternity services in Australia, so we can better support our patients and staff at a difficult time.”

The Mental Health and Early Loss of a Pregnancy (M-HELP) Project is co-funded by the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation and University of Melbourne. ■■

Every week counts at Frances Perry House

The team at Frances Perry House (FPH) are proud to be part of the Every Week Counts National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative, a two-year initiative aimed at reducing preterm and early term births (those between 37 and 39-weeks’ gestation), across Australia by 20 per cent.

As the only participating private hospital, FPH has taken on the challenge to safely reduce preterm and early term births through the implementation of evidence-based changes using a validated continuous quality improvement approach. Engagement has been strong across the FPH doctor, midwife and administrative support teams, with one of the greatest unexpected outcomes being the strengthening of team connections and collaboration. The team is all committed to making every week count.

While FPH continue to work on and tweak the strategies currently in place around preterm and early term birth prevention, which includes safely increasing the gestational age for women undergoing inductions of labour, their most recent focus is on reviewing caesarean booking processes. They aim to introduce a daily elective caesarean list to provide doctors the best opportunity to book their patients for caesarean births at, or after 39 weeks gestation from 2024.

At the completion of the collaborative, the outcomes will be collated and the results published in noted peer-reviewed journals set for international readership. ■■



Westmead Private Hospital unveils its latest robotic technology

Sydney’s Westmead Private Hospital has unveiled new Orthopaedic robotic technology, adding a new Mako robot to its suite of robotic devices.

The Mako system is an advanced, surgeon-controlled, robotic arm designed to increase the accuracy of partial and total knee and hip replacements.

Westmead Private Orthopaedic Surgeon, Dr Bijoy Thomas, said he was very pleased to offer this new technology to patients.

“The MAKO Robot can enhance my ability to provide the best care possible as the patient undergoes their knee replacement journey,” Dr Thomas said.

“The Mako system uses advanced imaging and mapping technology to create a 3D model of the patient's knee. This allows for highly accurate personalised preoperative planning and intraoperative guidance.

“The robotic arm helps to precisely cut and thereby place the components, leading to better alignment, fit and placement of the implants.

“Additionally, the robot has features that are designed to cause less trauma to the surrounding soft tissues compared to traditional surgical techniques. Minimizing soft tissue damage can result in faster recovery times, less pain, and improved postoperative mobility.”

Westmead Private Hospital CEO, Mike Flatley, said “we’re proud to continue investing in leading surgical technology that’s designed to improve patient experience and outcomes.”

Westmead Private Hospital has been a leader in robotic surgery since 2013. ■■

Tamworth patients get state-of-the-art robotic technology

Tamara Private Hospital has introduced new robotic technology to Tamworth for urology, gynaecology and general surgery procedures.

Tamara was the first hospital to bring robotic technology to regional New South Wales in 2018 and has now upgraded to the latest DaVinci Xi robotic surgical assistant.

Gynaecologist, Dr Elizabeth Varughese, said the new robot offers surgeons better vision and control.

“The 3D camera and the vision is a phenomenal improvement over traditional 2D laparoscopic cameras,” Dr Varughese said. “It gives better depth perception, which becomes very important when doing complex cases.”

Urologist, Dr Ramin Samali, said the new robot offered significant improvements.

“Robotic surgery offers a minimally invasive approach often associated with quicker recovery and earlier discharge from hospital,” Dr Samali said. “The DaVinci Xi is designed to increase our laparoscopic capabilities, with extra reach of instruments and clearer 3D vision.”

Urologist, Dr Ian Smith, said the advances were obvious when performing kidney surgery.

“The open approach to surgery requires a large flank incision in an area of the body the is extremely painful post-operatively,” Dr Smith explained. “This can see people in hospital on

strong pain medication for a number of days. However, done robotically, patients typically leave hospital in two days with very little pain medication.”

Dr Smith thanked the team at Tamara Private Hospital for embracing new technologies.

“It is always great to see regional Australians given equal access to healthcare technology and facilities,” he said.

“The cost for regional Australians to constantly travel long distances for appointments, scans and surgeries cannot be overestimated. Having this facility locally is a huge step forward.”

Tamara Private Hospital CEO, Debra Maslen, said she was proud to offer the local community access to leading healthcare technology.

“Reducing the need to travel to a major city for robotic surgical procedures helps reduce stress for our patients and allows them to recover close to home, with their support network,” Ms Maslen said. ■■



Hollywood Private unveils new robotic technology

Hollywood Private Hospital has recently unveiled a new VELYS surgical robot, with Orthopaedic Surgeon Professor Richard Carey Smith calling the technology a “fantastic step towards the perfect knee of the future”.

“The cuts are absolutely perfect. Knee replacement is a soft tissue balancing operation, and the soft tissues are balanced beautifully when the bone cuts are perfect. It is designed to offer potentially shorter operating time, lower analgesic requirements and less pain relief required.” ■■



Potentially life-saving procedure debuts on the Sunshine Coast

A 33-year-old woman with bowel cancer has become the first person to benefit from a new surgery being offered on the Sunshine Coast, undergoing the region's first robotic bowel resection.

The young woman had the surgery at Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital (SCUPH) in September and was able to return home the following day, thanks to the minimally invasive nature of the procedure.

Traditionally, bowel resection would be done via an open surgery (or laparotomy) requiring a hospital stay of up to two weeks.

Robotic and Colorectal Surgeon, Dr Kareem Marwan, performed the first such surgery on the coast, after performing almost 300 robotic procedures when based in Melbourne.

"In robotic surgery, we make small incisions, similar to keyhole surgery, and use the surgical robot to translate the surgeon's hand movements very precisely to the end of the instruments," Dr Marwan explained.

"The surgeon operates at a 3D-enabled console with ten times magnification and a very stable optical platform. It's very precise, delicate and timely. Robotic surgery is designed to help enable a quicker recovery, with most patients able to return home within 48 hours of their bowel resection."

Robotic bowel resection can be used to treat bowel cancer, inflammatory bowel disease and for advanced or complicated cases of diverticular disease.

SCUPH Acting CEO, Samantha Dodd, said Ramsay Health Care was committed to investing in leading technology and specialists for the communities of the Sunshine Coast.

"By investing in state-of-the-art surgical technology, we're able to offer Sunshine Coast locals access to modern procedures, close to home. Having procedures locally can help relieve stress on the patient as well as their family and friends,"

Ms Dodd said.

"Leading robotic technology, along with our \$10 million operating theatre upgrade that's underway, has also helped us attract some of the country's best doctors to the Sunshine State." ■

Cairns Private Hospital invests in state-of-the-art surgical technology

Far north Queensland is now home to new state-of-the-art robotic technology, with Cairns Private Hospital unveiling a surgical robot for use during knee replacement surgery.



The VELYS robot now available at Cairns Private Hospital complements the hospital's ROSA Orthopaedic robot and da Vinci Xi surgical robot used for Urology, Gynaecology and Colorectal surgery.

Orthopaedic Surgeon and Medical Director at Cairns Private Hospital, Dr Chris Morrey, said it was great to see regional Australians provided with access to leading healthcare technology.

"Reducing the need to travel to a major city for robotic surgical procedures helps reduce stress for patients and allows them to recover close to home, with their support network," Dr Morrey said.

"The financial cost for far north Queenslanders to constantly travel south for appointments, scans and surgeries also cannot be overestimated. Having this technology in Cairns is a wonderful thing for the local community."

Robotic technology is designed to offer a minimally invasive approach to surgery.

Equipped with advanced cameras and optical trackers, the new robot assists surgeons by gathering patient anatomy data in real time. The robot is designed to aid the surgeon as they plan for and execute precise procedures tailored to a patient's specific anatomy.

Cairns Private Hospital CEO, Ben Tooth, said Ramsay Health Care was committed to better health and wellbeing for communities in Cairns and far north Queensland. ■



JHC reaches 10 year milestone for public bariatric surgery

Joondalup Health Campus (JHC) likely performs more public bariatric surgery than any other hospital in the country.

The hospital became a centre for bariatric surgery in Western Australia (WA) about a decade ago, around the same time the hospital became the WA centre for peritonectomy surgery, and since then JHC surgeons have carried out thousands of these life changing procedures on both public and private patients.

Reputable bariatric surgeon, David Yong, said weight loss surgery was usually a last resort for severely obese patients who haven't been able to lose weight from exercise or improvements to their diet.

"The primary reasons for this surgery is to improve health outcomes," Mr Yong said.

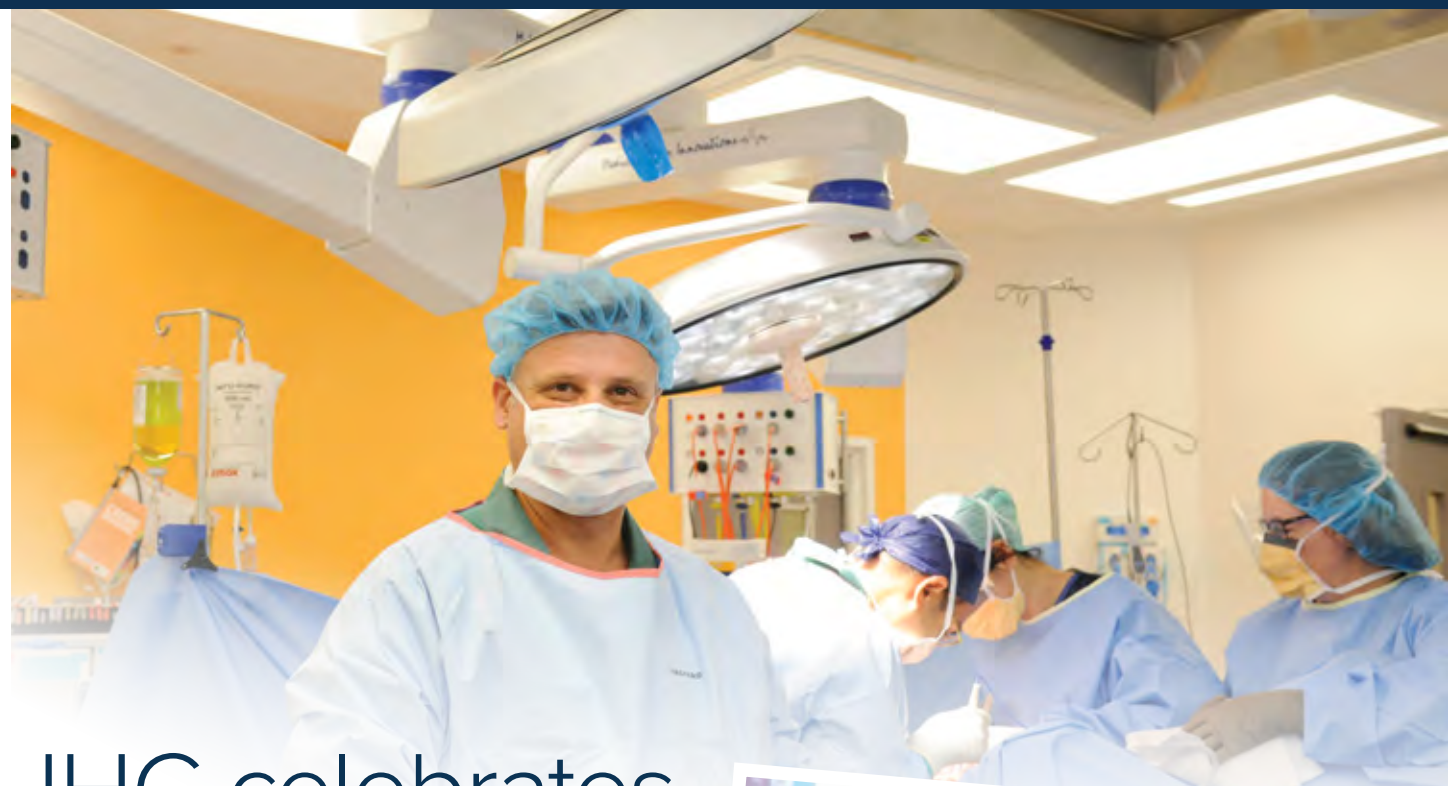
"Bariatric surgery is the only medical intervention that causes diabetes to go into remission, which usually happens a few months post operatively.

"It also significantly improves blood pressure, cholesterol, sleep apnoea and osteoarthritis...not to mention improvements to mental health and self-esteem."

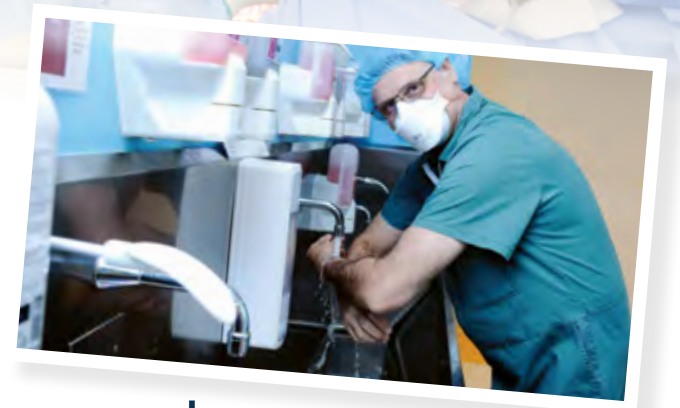
There are three types of bariatric surgery, but approximately 80 per cent of cases performed at JHC are gastric sleeve operations with the remaining 20 per cent being one of two types of gastric bypass procedures.

The hospital carries out about 300 public bariatric surgeries each year along with a high volume of private cases.

Patients either self-refer or are referred by a General Practitioner before undergoing an assessment by a multi-disciplinary team including a bariatric GP, dietician, psychologists and anaesthetists. ■■



JHC celebrates 10 years of peritonectomy as impressive new data is released



As Joondalup Health Campus (JHC) celebrates the 10 year anniversary of becoming Western Australia's state-wide peritonectomy service, new hospital data reveals survival rates of JHC patients undergoing this type of surgery are among the best in the world.

The five year survival rate for JHC peritonectomy patients treated for Stage 4 appendix cancer is 65 per cent, and 43 per cent for those with late stage colorectal cancer. Without peritonectomy surgery, these patients would have a five year survival rate of less than five per cent.

For patients with pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP), known as "jelly belly", the five year survival rate is even better – exceeding 90 per cent. Without peritonectomy surgery, the survival rate for PMP would be less than 40 per cent.

Other types of cancer where peritonectomy is possible include gastric and ovarian tumours, and mesothelioma of the peritoneum.

Peritonectomy is funded by the WA Government and is carried out at JHC under a public private partnership between Ramsay and the State Government.

It is a complex surgery that takes an average of 12 hours requiring Professor Paul Moroz and his team to cut out disease from the peritoneal cavity before administering 90 minutes of "hot chemo" directly inside the abdomen.

The patient is then sewn back together before spending about five days in the Intensive Care Unit and a further 14 days on the ward recovering.

Patients with PMP or "jelly belly" undergo daily chemo while at JHC and most other patients undergo something like 12 rounds of chemotherapy post-discharge, depending on their clinical needs, and require frequent follow up for years after the surgery.

Over the past decade, JHC has performed more than 250 peritonectomy surgeries and now the hospital averages about 30 procedures each year. ■■

Dudley Private Hospital fits 100th pacemaker

A 74-year-old man from Wallerawang has received the 100th pacemaker fitted in Central West NSW. The patient had the pacemaker fitted at Dudley Private Hospital in October, less than 18 months after they fitted their first device, in May 2022.

Dudley Private Hospital nurse practitioner candidate, Kerry Porter, said "What we've been able to do with a service like this here in Orange is we've taken away that travel to Sydney, which piles on the hours commuting back and forth and takes other stressors, like accommodation, away from patients and their families." ■■



St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital switches to solar for a greener future



St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital has unveiled a massive, new solar panel system set to cut energy use and reduce carbon emissions.

St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital CEO, Michael Lewczuk, said the new 254 kilowatt system would save more than 303 tonnes of carbon emissions per year, the equivalent of taking 137 new cars off the road.

"Installing solar panels is great for the environment and creating a more sustainable hospital for the future," Mr Lewczuk said.

"I'm excited to be moving forward with our commitment to addressing climate change through meaningful sustainability initiatives and taking practical steps to protect the planet."

The solar panel system is just one practical step St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital is taking to help protect the planet, with the hospital also in the process of upgrading existing lighting to energy efficient LED lights, set to save an additional 31 tonnes of carbon emissions per year.

St Andrew's Ipswich is helping to create 'greener operating theatres' by removing the anaesthetic gas desflurane, reported to have more than 20 times the global warming potential of alternative gases and instead switching to more environmentally friendly options.

The hospital is also contributing to Ramsay Health Care's commitment to reducing single-use plastics from landfill, switching almost 680,000 single-use plastics for more sustainable alternatives in just the past 18 months.



Queensland surgeons help patients in Fiji

Patients at Suva's Colonial War Memorial Hospital have benefited from the expertise of three specialists from St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital who recently completed an orthopaedic outreach trip to Fiji.

Orthopaedic surgeons Dr Peter Brazel and Dr Praveen Vijaysegaran, along with anaesthetist Dr Andrew Jorgensen, spent a week visiting patients, performing surgeries and working with local surgeons in Fiji's capital.

Dr Brazel, the Medical Advisory Committee Chair at St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital, said the team was pleased to share their knowledge and experience.

"The visit included ward rounds, visiting outpatients and working with local surgeons on about 30 surgeries. Over the week we saw more than 120 patients," he said.

"It was wonderful to be able to support the community, who welcomed us with open arms."

The trio also supports Pacific communities by holding weekly conference calls to discuss cases with Fijian surgeons.

Dr Brazel was on his fifteenth surgical outreach trip and said he was pleased to be joined by Dr Vijaysegaran, who first attended an outreach trip as a registrar, and Dr Jorgensen.

"They are the future of healthcare and it was wonderful to be able to travel with them and watch them helping so many," he said. "We are all looking forward to returning next year."

St George Private celebrate their CHAMPs

In August, the team at St George Private Hospital celebrated its non-clinical staff for CHAMPs day with a morning tea and Years of Service presentations.

St George Director of Finance & Administration, Joanne Parker said "CHAMPs Day provides us with the opportunity to say a BIG thank you to our Environmental Services, Catering, CSSD, Security, Supply, Engineering, Administration, Clinical Trials and Allied Health staff. We acknowledge and thank them for the support, care and professionalism they display when supporting our patients, clinical staff and visitors."



Peninsula Private Hospital celebrated Safe Work Month with a range of initiatives, include free 'Healthy Heart Checks' by the Cardiac Rehabilitation team. The checks included taking of blood pressure, heart rate and blood sugar levels and discussions around our cardiac risk factors.



National Safe Work Month

October was Safe Work Australia Month, and this year's theme was "For everyone's safety: work safely!"

Hillcrest Rockhampton Private Hospital's safety coordinator, Sophie Coxen, organised a range of activities to encourage safety discussions in the workplace and at home. Sophie also organised a fun scavenger hunt for the team.



SMART care6

Hollywood Private Hospital had a stall at the SMARTcare6: Beyond the Bedside event at the Fremantle campus of Notre Dame University. More than 400 students and alumni attended Hollywood's stall promoting the Ramsay Graduate Pathways Program and employment opportunities at Hollywood and our other Ramsay hospitals in Western Australia.



Congratulations to Donvale Rehabilitation Hospital Exercise Physiologist, Hayden Devine, who was chosen as one of four umpires for the 2023 AFL Grand Final.



Volunteers at Hollywood Private Hospital acknowledged Daffodil Day by delivering daffodils to Haematology and Oncology patients. They also sold bunches of the flowers at the front of the hospital, raising \$2,600 for the Cancer Council.

Congratulations to Alicia Simpson, National Manager - Clinical, Quality & Development and Ella Raguz, National Clinical Educator (Pharmacy) on being recognised as Foundation Fellows of the Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP).

This recognition certifies they have demonstrated the leadership, expertise, professional contribution and level of patient care to be distinguished as ANZCAP Consultants (Fellows).





Riding for heart health

A team from Peninsula Private Hospital took part in the 100km Around the Bay in 2023 cycling event, led by Cardiac Rehabilitation and Heart Failure Coordinator, Jonathan Boothroyd. Jonathan said this year's team featured "12 cardiac stents, five bypass grafts and two defibrillators" he added "our team hosts some pretty expensive hardware, and this is not including the costs of the bikes."

Records fall, numbers climb

Donvale Rehabilitation Hospital's Day Rehabilitation team celebrated a big financial year, featuring 23,006 patient attendances, with a record 129 on one day and the highest number of referrals (2,490) from external sources in a 12-month period. Ramsay Health Plus also celebrated after achieving 28 per cent growth on the previous year at 15,782 sessions.



A team from Warringal Private Hospital took on the 12 hour Relay for Life Challenge, raising \$5,199 for the Cancer Council. The team included members from a number of departments across the hospital including Trevor Cavanagh who walked a marathon (42km) during the 12 hour challenge.



Fundraising at its breast!

The team at St George Private Hospital held a fundraiser in October to acknowledge Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The raffle raised \$1,150 for the National Breast Cancer Foundation, and importantly, also raised awareness about the risk factors for developing breast cancer.



Ramsay asks "RUOK?"

The team at Ramsay Health Care in Cairns got together on RUOK? Day for a stroll from Cairns Private Hospital down the Esplanade, as a chance to have some meaningful conversations and check in with one another.



Albury Wodonga PH teams used RUOK? Day as a chance to get together over a BBQ and ask one another "RUOK?"



Congratulations to Amber Edwards who works in Peninsula Private Hospital's day chemotherapy ward for raising \$10,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation by taking part in the World's Greatest Shave.



Congratulations to Ramsay's Chief Nurse and Clinical Services Director, Dr Bernadette Eather, who was recently inducted as a fellow into the Australian College of Nursing.

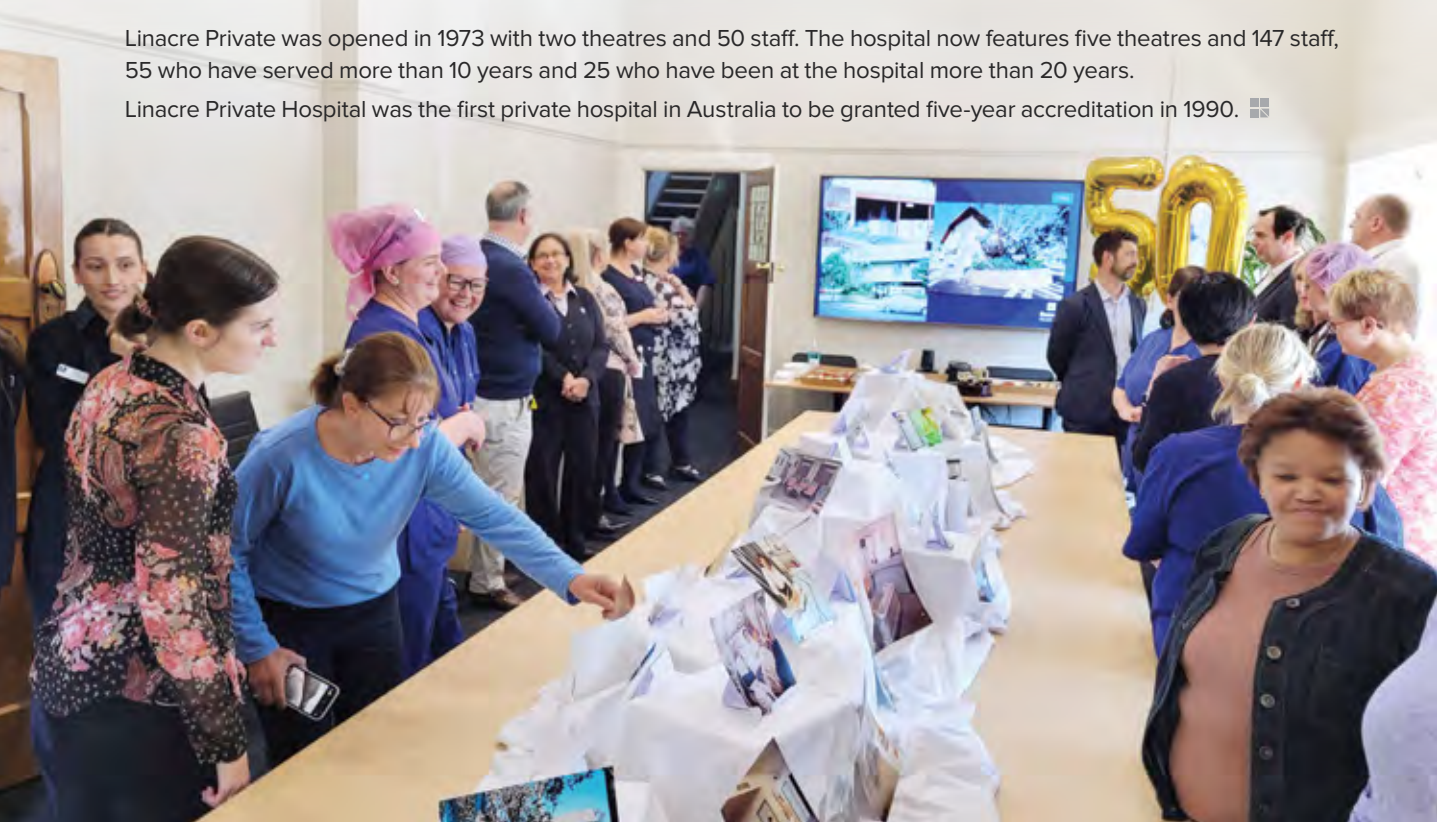


50 years of Linacre Private Hospital

Congratulations to Ramsay’s Linacre Private Hospital in Hampton, Victoria which celebrated its 50th anniversary in October.

Linacre Private was opened in 1973 with two theatres and 50 staff. The hospital now features five theatres and 147 staff, 55 who have served more than 10 years and 25 who have been at the hospital more than 20 years.

Linacre Private Hospital was the first private hospital in Australia to be granted five-year accreditation in 1990.



The Avenue Private re-opens refurbished Mackellar Ward

The team at The Avenue Private Hospital recently celebrated the opening of the newly renovated rooms on the Mackellar Ward.

The ward has a new contemporary look and feel and newly added safety features including better lighting around the rails in the hallways to reduce the risk of falls.



Ramsay’s newest hospital on track for 2024 opening

The new Northern Private Hospital, Ramsay’s largest greenfield development, reached practical completion in August, with the hospital due to open in early 2024.

Northern Private CEO, Shaune Gillespie, said the hospital was on track to begin welcoming patients in February.

“The equipment and furniture is being delivered and the carpark is almost complete. The next exciting step is getting our team together. We have appointed Dan Mabon as our DCS and recruitment for other roles is well underway,” he said.

“I am looking forward to opening the doors in the new year and being able to show off all the hard work that has gone into developing this incredible hospital.”



Movements and Appointments

ADRIAN BAUTISTA

has joined Ramsay as the new Chief Executive Officer of Peel Health Campus until transition of the hospital back to public management in August 2024. Adrian was previously Chief Executive of PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA and is an experienced executive and business leader with extensive knowledge on strategic, economic, and financial management across a diverse range of industries and sectors. He gained hands-on knowledge in hospital administration as Group Manager Planning and Performance at St John of God Healthcare and as Finance Director of St John of God Mount Lawley Hospital.

CASSANDRA BRIDGETT

has been appointed to the combined role of Director of Clinical Services / Peri-Operative Services Manager at Ramsay Surgical Centre Glenferrie. Cassandra joined the Glenferrie team a year ago and has had an incredibly positive impact in a short space of time. Cassandra's broad scope of experience spans across both clinical management roles in the operating theatre and the medical device industry. Cassandra has also been instrumental in the digital transformation and pilot program to date. Cassandra holds credentials in both nursing and business management.

KAYLIA DAVIS

has been appointed as the Director of Clinical Services role at Ramsay Clinic Albert Road. Kaylia previous worked as an RN and Nurse Unit Manager at the Clinic, and most recently as Acting DCS. Kaylia completed her Masters of Mental Health Nursing in 2022 and brings to the role a strong understanding of the Clinic operations, Ramsay Health frameworks and established working relationships with staff and doctors.

RACHNA GANDHI

is adding business transformation to her responsibilities in the expanded role of Chief Transformation, Digital and Data Officer. Rachna is highly respected for her exceptional track record of building and leading business transformation strategy and capability, with a focus on creating growth and world class customer experience.

JUSTIN GREENWELL

has been appointed as CEO of Greenslopes Private Hospital. Justin is a highly regarded leader and has extensive experience in senior healthcare roles, including several years as Director of Private Hospitals and Deputy CEO for Mater in Queensland, five years leading at Knox Private Hospital in Victoria and five years as Director of Clinical Services at Epworth Freemasons Hospital in Melbourne. Justin most recently served as CEO on the Sunshine Coast. As well as broad experience in both for-profit and non-profit healthcare businesses, Justin has completed a master's degree in the field of Health Administration and was a non-executive director on the Board of Adventist Healthcare for six years.

AMANDA HARRISS

has joined the North Shore Network (Castlecrag, Hunters Hill and North Shore Private Hospitals) as Deputy Chief Executive Officer. Amanda has more than 20 years healthcare experience, with expertise in private enterprise, government and not for profit organisations. Amanda is currently the Director of Corporate Services at Royal North Shore Hospital where she holds responsibility for both hard and soft facility management within public private partnership, health asset management, ICT procurement, administrative services, corporate governance and volunteer coordination. Amanda has a proven track record of success across operational strategy and performance.

JONELLE HILL-UEBERGANG

has been appointed to the combined role of Chief Executive Officer / Director of Clinical Services at Wangaratta Private

Hospital. Jonelle has extensive experience as a health care executive in both the private and public sector, with roles at Gateway Health and North-East Health prior to the last 12 months as Director of Clinical Services at Wangaratta Private. Throughout her time in health care, Jonelle has successfully led facilities and services delivering growth and new service development alongside improvements in staff engagement, patient satisfaction and clinical and employee safety.

VANESSA HUTFIELD

has been appointed as the Director of Clinical Services at Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital (SCUPH) and Ramsay Clinic Caloundra. Vanessa has been a valued member of the SCUPH team since last year when she joined as the Assistant Director of Clinical Services (ADCS). Since the beginning of this year, she has been acting in the role of Director of Clinical Services, demonstrating strong leadership skills during this time. Vanessa began her career in the UK, specializing in Emergency Care nursing and acquiring advanced skills as a Nurse Practitioner. After moving to Australia, Vanessa worked in both public and private healthcare settings.

GREG KENNEDY

has been appointed Chief Operating Officer - Out of Hospitals. Greg most recently served as CEO Ramsay Pharmacy and Ramsay Psychology after joining Ramsay Pharmacy as Chief Operating Officer in 2019. Greg has driven significant growth across our pharmacies, including launching an e-commerce offering, and the expansion of our psychology services across four states and national telehealth. With over 20 years' experience in customer-focused operations, Greg has proven to be an accomplished and respected leader, with an appetite for innovation and driving change.

NATALIE KING

has been appointed to the dual role of CEO/Director of Clinical Services at Ramsay Clinic Thirroul. Natalie has been serving as the CEO at Ramsay Clinic Thirroul since it opened 12 months ago, and as the CEO at Ramsay Clinic Macarthur. Natalie is delighted to be able to have a greater focus on Thirroul and the marvellous opportunity it presents.

SHANA LALOR

has also been appointed to the dual role of CEO/Director of Clinical Services at Ramsay Clinic Macarthur. Shana has been DCS at Macarthur since March 2022 and has successfully performed the role of Site Manager previously.

MICHELLE LYNCH

has been promoted to the role of CEO for Ramsay Pharmacy and Psychology Group. Over the past 7.5 years, Michelle has held several key roles within the Ramsay Pharmacy team. Most recently, as Chief Operating Officer – Ramsay Pharmacy and Psychology, she was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the pharmacy businesses within our hospitals, as well as supporting our franchise network of community pharmacies. Michelle is a confident leader and team player; she makes it a priority to support our positive people culture, ensuring our team of health professionals can practice to their full scope.

DAN MABON

has been appointed Director of Clinical Services at Northern Private Hospital. Dan commenced as the Director of Clinical Services at the Ramsay Surgical Centre - Glenferrie in August 2022. Since joining, Dan has quickly proved himself to be a charismatic and capable leader, quickly forming collaborative relationships with his colleagues and our VMO's. Working with his team, Dan's positive and transparent approach has significantly improved staff engagement and assisted in the post COVID volume recovery at the hospital. With previous

appointments including the Acting DCS role at North Park Private, and Hospital Co-ordinator at St Vincent's Private, Dan is ideally placed to take on the challenge of the successfully commissioning of our new Hospital due to open in February next year.

ALEKSANDRA McNEE

has joined Ramsay as the Chief Executive Officer at Waverley Private Hospital. Aleks brings extensive experience as a health care executive, most recently in the UK where she progressed through Surgical, Operations and Director of Clinical Services roles before becoming the Director of Operations for the Phoenix Hospital Group in London. Aleks brings a strong track record of success in strategic operational and clinical leadership, new service development and delivering growth. As a relationship focused leader, Aleks has built partnerships with her teams and external stakeholders to deliver improvements in quality, safety, patient satisfaction and staff engagement.

SUE OCAMPO

has been appointed Director of Finance and Support Services at Kareena Private Hospital and the Ramsay Surgical Centre Miranda. Sue is returning to Ramsay Health Care, having previously held roles at St George Private, the North Shore Network and the corporate team. In her time away from Ramsay she has spent time in health care and other industries.

ANDREW SMITH

has been appointed Chief Financial Officer of Ramsay Health Care. Andrew joined Ramsay in 2021 as Chief Operating Officer – Out of Hospitals, where he has been integral to expanding Ramsay's high-quality healthcare into the community. Andrew has a deep understanding of our market and has led strong growth across our psychology, allied health, pharmacy, at-home and virtual services and directed the development of our day surgery strategy. He is a highly experienced executive and Board director and has demonstrated his exemplary leadership skills as acting CFO over the past few months.

SHARON WALSH

has joined Ramsay in the combined role of CEO/Director of Clinical Services at Nowra Private Hospital. Sharon is a Registered Nurse with more than 20 years' experience in healthcare across multiple states and internationally. Sharon is currently the Chief Operations Officer at Mackay Hospital and Health Service and previous to her current role she was Divisional Manager at Austin Heath. Sharon brings a wealth of operational experience with proven performance of strategic leadership and excellent stakeholder management to achieve shared goals. Sharon has demonstrated throughout her career a culture of staff development by mentoring emerging leaders and championing diversity and inclusion to empower teams and individuals to realise their full potential.

THERESA WELSCHINGER

has been appointed to the role of Director of Clinical Services at Ramsay Clinic Wentworthville. Theresa has been with Ramsay since 2017 and has worked as a Unit Manager, Acting Deputy DCS and Acting DCS across Mount Wilga and Berkeley Vale Private Hospitals during this time. Theresa has previously managed a facility that included both mental health and rehabilitation services. Theresa successfully completed Ramsay's Nurse Leaders of Tomorrow in 2022. Theresa demonstrates a commitment to the provision of quality health services and brings a refreshing approach to clinical governance and healthcare standards. She is passionate about team building, mentoring and education and will lead Ramsay Clinic Wentworthville with great enthusiasm.

Animal adventures

Pet Therapy has proven to have many benefits for patients experiencing mental and physical health concerns.

It is known to reduce anxiety and depression by combating the effects of isolation, loneliness and boredom. It has also been proven to help people with physical discomfort, by helping to lower blood pressure and heart rate. Therapy animals also provide a pleasant distraction from the hospital or clinic environment, helping patients momentarily shift their focus away from medical concerns. ■■

Peel Health Campus recently experienced a heart-warming visit from 'Sunnie', a delightful Therapy Dog, along with her owner Eve.

Sunnie's visit was part of the hospital's new Animal Assisted Therapy and Activity Program and proved to be a hit with patients, staff and visitors alike leaving everyone with smiles on their faces.

The success of Sunnie's visit has set the stage for more furry therapy sessions at Peel Health Campus. The hospital plans to continue incorporating animal-assisted therapy as part of its holistic approach to patient care and the team looks forward to regular visits from Sunnie in the future. ■■



Amazing Animals to You were invited to Ramsay Clinic New Farm to brighten the afternoon of patients and staff.

Patients commented that "Pet therapy is the best kind of therapy" (Alison) and that it "Brightened my week, so worth it – It's made me feel like a person not a patient" (Tena). Ramsay Clinic New Farm is committed to improving the lives of their patients through experiences such as this and it is sure to be a regular event on the treatment calendar. ■■



Congratulations Harry Mezger

Congratulations to Masada Private Hospital Allied Health Assistant, Harry Mezger, who recently represented Australia in the 2023 Virtus Global Games in Vichy, France AND the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, Germany. Harry is a neurodiverse athlete and fierce advocate for people living with a disability.

Harry competed in road and track cycling events in France, winning a silver medal in the velodrome.

In Berlin, Harry competed in three athletics events, the 10,000m, 3,000m and the relay, winning bronze in each event.

Harry said: "I was very lucky to be given a month off work to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to represent Australia twice in one month!"

"I love making friends in sport, inspiring others and showing the world that nothing is impossible." ■■

Ramsay supports Lake Macquarie Running Festival

Ramsay Health Care was proud to be the naming rights sponsor for the 2023 Lake Macquarie Running Festival. 78 members of the Ramsay family joined more than 1,200 other runners along the Warner's Bay foreshore. ■■

