



The Ramsay Way

Ramsay Health Care Corporate Newsletter



Ramsay Health Care



Carmel Monaghan, WA Premier Roger Cook and Craig McNally announce the expansion of Joondalup Health Campus.

Major expansion for Joondalup Private Hospital

Joondalup Private Hospital is set for a \$190 million transformation to provide the local community with further access to high quality private health care closer to home.

The major expansion will include the establishment of a new state-of-the-art operating theatre complex and 82 new beds, which includes 30 shelled for future use, giving the community a broader range of elective and emergency private services.

The announcement coincided with the Premier of Western Australia, Roger Cook, announcing the State Government and Ramsay Health Care had signed a 15 year extension of the Joondalup Health Campus (JHC) public contract, which will see Ramsay operate JHC until 2043.

"This contract extension allows us to get on with the job of continuing to provide top quality public services in Joondalup as well as paving the way for a major uplift in private services, including 55 per cent more beds," Premier Cook said.

"I thank Ramsay Health Care for their continued investment in the northern corridor and welcome their announcement of

increased private services for patients," he said.

Ramsay Health Care State Manager (WA), Dr Shane Kelly, said the expansion, fully funded by Ramsay, combined with the \$269.4 million State and Australian Government funded public hospital redevelopment underway, will grow the Joondalup Health Campus (public and private) to be among the largest health campuses in WA.

"The expansion will bring opportunities for growth, building on the services we currently provide with a significant focus on cardiology procedures, orthopaedics, general surgery, endoscopy and ophthalmology while expanding ear, nose and throat, urology, and vascular surgery," Dr Kelly said.

"We also plan to expand cancer services by doing more cancer surgery at this site, including breast and colorectal surgery," he said.

Ramsay Health Care Australia Chief Executive Officer, Carmel Monaghan, said the expansion will cement JHC as one of the country's premier public-private co-located facilities, with all the associated benefits.

"The hospital will feature new technology, including digital and artificial intelligence, and will attract additional high calibre specialist medical practitioners to Joondalup and give existing specialists the chance to take on more private work, and there will be further research opportunities," Ms Monaghan said.

The private development will include six new operating theatres, two day procedure rooms, a day of surgery admissions unit, a 22-bed short stay surgical ward, a 30-bed surgical/medical ward and six cardiac care beds.

The new private facilities will open in early 2026. ■■

Investing in our future – building great leaders at Ramsay

Ramsay is making an important investment in the skills and capabilities its leaders will need to drive continued success into the future of the organisation.

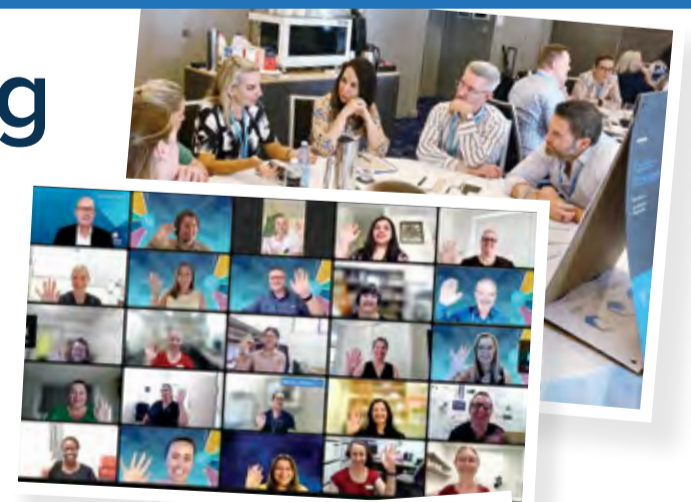
The Ramsay Australia Leadership Academy launched in December 2023 with a program of learning for every Ramsay leader that meets them where they are on their leadership journey.

Each of the five core programs of the Academy offers a powerful blend of learning experiences to equip leaders with the self-awareness and skills to lead their teams in a complex, ambiguous, exciting environment of change and transformation. 14 cohorts of leaders will complete a program before the end of July 2024, with scheduling for Intake 2 already underway. Net promoter scores on the Academy programs measure customer loyalty and are averaging an incredible 9.4 out of 10 with loads of positive feedback.

DCS at St George Private Hospital in NSW, Nerida Russell-Green was part of cohort 1, and said:

"The academy so far has been fantastic and I really appreciate Ramsay putting the time and resources into the program."

"The CARE leadership foundations are a beneficial resource with clear prompts to help any level of leader. I have already shared learnings with my team and discussed the CARE pillars. I would highly recommend the Academy to others." ■■



Online and in person sessions with the first cohort of the Ramsay Leadership Academy.





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the second edition of The Ramsay Way for 2024.

This year we are celebrating Ramsay's 60th year of caring for Australians, and while we celebrate our impressive history, we're also focussed on ensuring an even more successful future.

As you will see in this edition, we continue to invest in our hospital network and equipment, ensuring we have world class facilities; we are also transforming the business through technology and workforce development as we seek to reimagine private healthcare in Australia.

This edition covers the announcement of our extended contract to operate Joondalup Health Campus in WA, as well as the expansion of the co-located Joondalup Private Hospital.. The expansion will cement Joondalup as one of the country's premier public-private co-located facilities.

This quarter we also celebrate some of our Ramsay facilities leading the way in new services and procedures. You can read about the new vaping cessation program at Ramsay Clinic Northside, as well as a nurse-led cardiac implant service on the Sunshine Coast and a new Mitral Valve procedure at Wollongong, which is saving patients the trip to Sydney for their cardiac care needs.

In this edition of The Ramsay Way you can read about the first cohort of leaders taking part in our newly established Ramsay Leadership Academy. Created to help nurture and grow our people to become exceptional leaders, the academy has been incredibly popular, and is receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants.

This edition also celebrates some of our hospitals celebrating significant milestones, as well as one nurse's impressive individual milestone. Congratulations to Annie McFarlane from Nowra who recently celebrated 60 years of nursing.

Our health services business has also had a busy quarter, with Ramsay Connect turning four, Ramsay Health Plus opening three new locations in WA, and the launch of prescriptions and our diabetes virtual service. You can read more about each of these and much more in this newsletter.

Warm regards,

Carmel Monaghan
Chief Executive Officer, Ramsay Health Care Australia

Westmead Private Hospital doc honoured with Archibald Prize portrait

Sydney-based artist, Mr William Barry, has used his recent health scare as inspiration for a portrait entered in this year's Archibald Prize. Titled 'Faceless to Friend', the portrait represents the personal bond between artist Mr Barry and Westmead Private Hospital cardiologist, Associate Professor Pramesh Kovoor.

The two first met three years ago when Mr Barry was treated by A/Prof. Kovoor at Westmead Private for severe weakening of his heart muscle from an irregular heartbeat, known as atrial fibrillation.

"'Faceless to Friend' depicts my healthcare journey, where not only was I given my life back, but the humanity shown by Professor Kovoor throughout my hospital stays has turned him from at first a caring stranger to now a lifelong friend," Mr Barry said.

"The care shown to me when I was in hospital was world class. It inspired 'Faceless to Friend' and gave me lasting respect for our healthcare workers."

Mr Barry explained each element in the portrait and how it relates to his journey.

"The speeding ambulance in the painting represents the hectic pace of health care and multiple emergencies it has to

deal with. The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in the painting represents Professor Kovoor's work with Greg Page, the original Yellow Wiggle, to promote availability and use of AEDs across Australia for cardiac arrests in the community. It has also been used on me multiple times."

A/Prof. Kovoor said he was honoured to be the subject of Mr Barry's portrait.

"I was very honoured as I understood from William that he was doing my portrait to describe his gratitude to all the health care professionals across Australia, especially at Westmead Private Hospital,"

A/Prof. Kovoor said. 📷

Mr William Barry and A/Prof. Pramesh Kovoor with Mr Barry's portrait.



High demand for Australia's first Vaping Cessation Clinic

Ramsay Mental Health is tackling the rising concerns associated with vaping addiction in Australia through a new Vaping Cessation Clinic at Ramsay Clinic Northside in Sydney.

The clinic, the first of its kind in Australia, was established and is run by internationally recognised expert in smoking cessation, Professor Renee Bittoun, who started Australia's first smokers' clinic 40 years ago.

Professor Bittoun said the clinic was created to meet the demand for the service, with children as young as 12 seeking help to quit vaping.

"The use of vapes has increased dramatically in recent years, particularly among young people," Professor Bittoun said.

"Marketing campaigns often target teenagers and young people, hoping to get them addicted for life.

"Products have even been renamed to sound more appealing. They've phased out the use of 'e-cigarette', in favour of 'vapes' which gives this impression that it's safe, that it might be water vapor. Unfortunately, we know that almost all of them contain nicotine which when inhaled into the lungs can dramatically affect the developing brain.

"The younger you are when you start your exposure to nicotine, the harder it is to quit."

Ramsay Clinic Northside offers a comprehensive vaping cessation program that encompasses and addresses all aspects of vaping addiction. The program is open to people of all ages at all stages of addiction. ■■



Ramsay Clinic Gold Coast unveils new dedicated detox program

Ramsay Clinic Gold Coast has launched a new detox program to help Gold Coast locals safely undergo alcohol detox and begin their recovery process. The new program is housed in a dedicated, eight-bed, secure, medically supervised alcohol withdrawal inpatient unit.

Patrick Harvey, from The Southport Private Hospital psychology team, said the program was specially designed to allow patients to detox in a safe, supportive environment.

"We've specially designed a program that provides continuous medical monitoring, experts to help manage potentially life-threatening withdrawal symptoms and provides access to immediate medical intervention if required," Mr Harvey said.

"We know alcohol detoxification looks different for everyone, and that recovery entails more than just physical withdrawal. To meet the varied needs of patients, the new program was designed with flexibility in mind. While some patients may prefer to recover in bed, alone, others will prefer company and to stay active, and we've worked hard

to accommodate these different needs and preferences."

Mr Harvey said a mental health clinic like Ramsay Clinic Gold Coast can be an ideal place to undergo detox.

"Alcohol detox can involve severe and potentially life-threatening withdrawal symptoms, such as seizures, delirium tremens and dehydration. We have medical professionals on site who can administer medications to alleviate withdrawal symptoms and minimise complications and intervene immediately in the event of an emergency.

"We also offer a controlled environment to minimise exposure to triggers and temptations that could lead to relapse, providing a safer, stable setting for the detox treatment."

Mr Harvey said patients can also access other mental health

services during their stay if needed.

"Research shows that substance use and mental health concerns often co-occur. Patients can receive support for other mental health concerns such as anxiety and depression during their stay in our alcohol withdrawal inpatient unit. Our multidisciplinary team includes psychiatrists, psychologists and mental health nurses who are experienced in treating co-occurring mental health and substance-use disorders."

During the seven-day program, participants receive medical, psychological, nutritional, behavioural and educational support, as well as a tailored treatment plan. The program accepts patients covered by private health insurance as well as self-funded patients. ■■



Detox nurses in the new alcohol withdrawal inpatient unit at Ramsay Clinic Gold Coast.



Greg Page and A/Prof. Pramesh Kovoor.

Wiggle to Warrior: Greg Page joins forces with Westmead Private Hospital cardiologist to promote cardiac safety

Original Yellow Wiggle, Greg Page, has continued to work with Westmead Private Hospital cardiologist, Associate Professor Pramesh Kovoor, on improving his own cardiac health and the cardiac health of the nation.

Mr Page and A/Prof Kovoor were first introduced in 2020 following the Yellow Wiggle's well publicised cardiac arrest at a Wiggles charity concert in Sydney.

The incident gave Mr Page a new purpose and he has since been working with A/Prof Kovoor to promote the work of Heart of the Nation, an initiative that seeks to enhance public health and cardiac safety across Australia.

"Every minute counts when someone experiences a sudden cardiac arrest," A/Prof Kovoor said.

"Having defibrillators readily available in public settings significantly increases the chances of survival, delivering a shock that is intended to restore the heart to its normal rhythm."

Heart of the Nation seeks to lead change through education, training and access to automated external defibrillators within one minute of all locations.

Having survived his sudden cardiac arrest in 2020, Mr Page has become a passionate advocate for cardiac health and defibrillator accessibility.

"My own experience has shown me just how vital it is to have AEDs in convenient locations. In making them mandatory, we have the ability to save countless lives," Mr Page said.

"We have the technology to make our public spaces safer. Let's not wait for a tragedy before taking action; let's spread awareness and ensure no one has to rely solely on luck when their heart stops beating."

Westmead Private Hospital has a dedicated 23-bed cardiovascular unit, a 16-bed intensive care unit and two state of the art cardiac catheter suites in order to perform the latest tests, procedures and treatment of heart disease. ■■

Hollywood Private Hospital celebrates cardiac milestone during National Heart Week

Hollywood Private Hospital has celebrated a milestone 1,000th cardiac surgery, less than four years since the opening of its multi-million-dollar, purpose-built cardiac theatre.

Cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr Pragnesh Joshi performed Hollywood's first cardiac surgery, a beating heart bypass surgery in 2020, and in May performed the 1,000th procedure, a mitral valve repair. He credits the quality facilities and people involved for achieving this milestone.

"We achieved this milestone faster than we thought. This was possible due to the great team at Hollywood, especially the nursing and perioperative staff, who take immense pride in what they do and provide the highest levels of clinical care," Dr Joshi said.

"Right from the start the hospital has invested in establishing resources including a well-equipped ICU, dedicated cardiothoracic ward, cardiology and pre and post operative rehabilitation units. Hollywood Private Hospital has the most advanced heart lung machine in the country.

"Other than transplants, we've performed all types of routine and high end complex cardiac and thoracic surgeries as part of our first 1,000 cases at Hollywood."

Dr Joshi said the team is working hard to improve heart health treatment for future generations.

"This is one of the only centres in the Asia-Pacific region for training of advanced atrial fibrillation ablation surgeries. A team is also in the process of starting the first endoscopic vein harvest in WA."

Hollywood Private Hospital CEO, Andrew Tome, said in recent years the hospital had invested heavily to become a leading, comprehensive heart health facility.

"We have bought together a team of world-class experts and state-of-the-art facilities and technology to provide exceptional cardiac services under one roof," Mr Tome said.

"In recent years we've opened our new Emergency Department, as well as our purpose-built cardiac suite, allowing patients with cardiac symptoms to present to our hospital and be well taken care of for the duration of their cardiac care journey.

"Reaching this significant milestone in just a few short years is a testament to the terrific team we have here, all determined to improve the heart health of West Australians."

Hollywood Private Hospital offers four cardiac catheter labs featuring some of the most advanced medical imaging technologies in Australia, 24/7 interventional cardiology services, around the clock referral to cardiothoracic surgeons, a 24-hour Acute Chest Pain Service as well as on site coronary care and intensive care units. ■■



Dr Pragnesh Joshi (centre), Andrew Tome (far right) and members of the Hollywood Private Hospital cardiac team.

Wollongong Private Hospital announces new cardiac procedure during Heart Week

People with heart disease in and around the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions now have access to a new, minimally invasive, non-surgical treatment option close to home, with Wollongong Private Hospital recently introducing the potentially life-saving treatment, previously only available in Sydney.

Interventional cardiologist, Dr Ed Danson, has started performing mitral valve repairs using a Mitral Valve Clip, repairing faulty heart valves without the need for open heart surgery. The non-surgical treatment method involves inserting a small metal clip into the heart, via a vein in the leg, to help the heart function properly.

“This treatment option allows patients having transcatheter procedures to recover more quickly, given its minimally invasive nature. There is also often much less time in hospital and sometimes less pain in the immediate aftermath,” Dr Danson said.

“Importantly, this treatment is also available to some patients who are just unable to have open heart surgery because of the risk to their life.”

Dr Danson said the potential benefits for local patients being able to access the treatment in Wollongong are a lot more significant than just the reduced travel and ability to recover close to their support network.

“There are numerous studies now that show very convincingly much better outcomes for patients when their care is less fragmented, where everything from planning the procedure, performing it, recovery and follow up is all delivered by the same team at the same location,” he said.

“These treatments often require protracted planning before they are offered involving several scans, detailed analysis and multidisciplinary discussion. It just isn’t practical or realistic to ask patients, many of whom are older or frailer, to travel large distances for repeated visits into our metropolitan areas.

“However, the reality is transcatheter technologies need to be delivered at hospitals with all the relevant infrastructure and so sites like Wollongong Private Hospital are essential. Wollongong has some of the best cardiac surgeons in the country who work very symbiotically with a wonderfully functional “Heart Team”. We also have all the latest and most advanced technology at our disposal.”



Dr Ed Danson (third from right) with members of the Wollongong Private Hospital cardiac team.

Leadless pacemaker a first for Ramsay in WA

Joondalup Health Campus (JHC) has achieved a first for Ramsay Health Care WA, implanting a state-of-the-art leadless pacemaker.

Consultant cardiologist Dr Sohail Popal implanted the device into 86-year-old Kenneth Hoyle, whose traditional pacemaker had failed. The new pacemaker technology, weighing just two grams, is an option for those who aren’t suitable for traditional transvenous pacing systems.

For Mr Hoyle, the leadless pacemaker was his best option as it meant wiring to his existing transvenous pacemaker, which had fractured and failed, could remain in place. Previously,

ex-plantation of the old pacemaker lead and implanting an additional new lead would have been the traditional approach, which is much more invasive and carries a higher level of morbidity and mortality.

Mr Hoyle said he was grateful the technology was an option for him.

“Thank goodness it’s available, I couldn’t ask for more,” he said.

Head of Cardiology at JHC, Dr Wasing Taggu said the hospital’s ability to implant the new pacemaker with an excellent supportive Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory team will further enhance its capacity to serve the local community.

“We are extremely proud that we have this new heart pacing system available and can offer a safer alternative for suitable patients with a fast recovery time,” he said.

Head of Cardiology Dr Wasing Taggu and Consultant Cardiologist Dr Sohail Popal with the Cath Lab team.



Sunshine Coast team leading the way with new cardiac care program



Dr Stuart Butterly training Nurse Practitioner Tara Willcocks.

Sunshine Coast residents who have experienced a stroke will now have easier access to potentially life-saving cardiac care, with the rollout of a new nurse-led Implantable Loop Recorder (ILR) service at Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital (SCUPH).

Nurse practitioner Tara Willcocks is the first Ramsay Health Care nurse in Australia to be trained to complete ILR procedures which are traditionally performed by cardiologists.

Ms Willcocks has been trained by cardiologist Dr Stuart Butterly who operates at SCUPH.

Dr Butterly said the program is designed to reduce patient wait times and enhance the patient experience, all while increasing the capacity of local cardiac services.

"This nurse-led program will allow patients to be treated without delay and hopefully improve outcomes for those at-risk patients," Dr Butterly said.

"The ILR procedure involves a small diagnostic device being implanted in the chest of stroke patients to detect cardiac arrhythmias and help determine further treatment options. Using a tablet, Tara can conveniently activate the ILR, and program the device parameters according to the patients' needs."

Ms Willcocks said learning to complete the potentially life-saving procedure has been rewarding.

"Learning from Dr Butterly has been an incredible experience. It feels wonderful to be one of just a few nurses in the country trained to complete this procedure," Ms Willcocks said.

"This new service is a testament to the passion and innovative thinking from the leadership team at SCUPH. Everyone in the cardiology service here is committed to advancing healthcare and thinking outside the box to offer more Australians greater health outcomes and a brighter and healthier future." ■■

Members of The Avenue theatre team celebrate their 2,000th Mako robotic surgery.



The Avenue Hospital celebrates Mako milestone

The Avenue Hospital celebrated an important milestone in February when the 2,000th MAKO procedure was performed in theatre. The Avenue was just the third site in the country to offer a Mako robot, when the device first arrived in 2015.

The Mako is currently used by orthopaedic surgeons for procedures including partial and total knee arthroplasty and total hip arthroplasty.

According to Hip and Knee Surgeon, Dr Matthew Evans, from the Melbourne Orthopaedic Group: "The introduction of the MAKO robot as an adjunct tool for navigated knee replacement surgery has proven to be of great value in my orthopaedic practice." ■■



Dr Soh and Dr Vonhoff at Wollongong Private Hospital.

Wollongong Private Hospital offering new hope for Parkinson's patients

Wollongong Private Hospital is offering new hope for local patients with Parkinson's Disease, introducing an innovative new treatment option, previously not available between Sydney and Melbourne.

Deep brain stimulation (DBS) involves implanting small electrodes in the brain which are controlled by a pacemaker-like device inserted in the chest. The electrodes produce electrical impulses to manage movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease, dystonia and tremor.

Neurosurgeon Dr Craig Vonhoff and neurologist Dr Derrick Soh recently completed the first DBS implantation at Wollongong Private Hospital.

"Parkinson's is a progressive disease. Over time people find medications less effective or suffer increased side-effects from them. DBS allows for a reduced reliance on those medications and an associated reduction in medication-related side effects. DBS can also be adapted as the disease progresses and becomes more severe," Dr Soh said.

Dr Vonhoff said the provision of a DBS service requires the coordination and collaboration of a variety of health professionals to succeed.

"Wollongong Private Hospital has excellent facilities where we work with a dedicated team within operating theatres, intensive care and on the ward to ensure our patients are comfortable, well cared for and supported throughout their journey," Dr Vonhoff said.

"Having been trained in large metropolitan hospitals, I am thrilled to be able to offer this treatment locally. Bringing this service to the Illawarra and wider region provides local residents with debilitating health conditions an opportunity to seek surgery and ongoing treatment close to home."

The first patient to benefit from the new service was 63-year-old Sandra McDonald from Bermagui in NSW who has suffered from Parkinson's Disease for more than a decade.

"After 10 years of taking medication for Parkinson's, the drugs were becoming ineffective and causing serious side effects," Mrs McDonald said.

"We live near Bermagui so it's an easy 4-hour drive to Wollongong. I'm glad I don't have to deal with the big city crazy traffic. The hospital in Wollongong is centrally located close to shops and accommodation."

Wollongong Private Hospital Acting CEO, Malcolm Passmore, said Ramsay Health Care was committed to offering people in regional NSW access to leading private health care options closer to home.

"We're pleased to offer this new procedure to people in Illawarra and surrounding regions. Wollongong Private Hospital is committed to bringing leading health care options to the region. Patients do not need to travel to capital cities to access excellent care or to be treated by leading specialists." ■■

New era of robotic surgery launched on the Gold Coast

More women across the Gold Coast and Northern New South Wales are able to benefit from cutting-edge, robotic-assisted surgery for the treatment of endometriosis, with the arrival of a new women's health specialist at John Flynn Private Hospital.

Endometriosis-related hospitalisations have increased dramatically in recent years, with one in seven Australian women suffering from the disease.¹

Experienced obstetrician and gynaecologist, Dr Mikhail Sarofim has undertaken advanced training in robotic assisted surgery and is the first to offer the service as a mainstay for endometriosis treatment at John Flynn Private Hospital.

"I believe in offering women a tailored approach to their health care and, with this advanced technology and the right training, gynaecologists can offer patients more options for their health management," Dr Sarofim said.

"Designed for minimally invasive procedures, robotic-assisted surgery can help to reduce operative times and enhance recovery and outcomes for women."

John Flynn Private Hospital CEO, Joanne Mitchell, said she was pleased Gold Coast women now had the option of robotic-assisted gynaecological surgery closer to home.

"Dr Sarofim is a leading obstetrician and women's health specialist, who has completed extensive training in order to be able to manage complex gynaecological conditions including severe endometriosis. It's with great excitement that we welcome Dr Sarofim and our new robotic surgical offering," she said. ■■

Source: 1 in 7 Australian women aged 44-49 have endometriosis - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (aihw.gov.au)

Dr Mikhail Sarofim and the Da Vinci robot at John Flynn Private Hospital.





Associate Professor Farid Meybodi.

Strathfield and Westmead Private Hospitals invest in breast cancer technology

Two Ramsay Health Care hospitals in Sydney's west have joined forces to offer leading new technology to local breast cancer patients.

Strathfield Private Hospital recently invested in a new SCOUT system, designed to improve breast cancer surgery accuracy and outcomes. To ensure as many patients as possible have access to the leading technology, the SCOUT system will be shared with fellow Ramsay Health Care facility, Westmead Private Hospital.

Strathfield Private Hospital CEO Rowann O'Mullane said she hoped the new technology would make treatment a little easier for patients with breast cancer.

"I'm so pleased to be able to offer the local community access to this technology, at our hospital and nearby Westmead Private Hospital," Ms O'Mullane said.

"Ramsay Health Care is committed to offering Australians access to leading private health care, including leading technology options designed to improve their experience and outcomes.

"As Australia's largest private hospital operator, Ramsay is well-placed to share resources to ensure as many Australians as possible can benefit from technology like this."

The new, wireless system is designed to help a surgeon precisely locate tumours during surgery by using a tiny device, the size of a grain of rice, called a reflector. The reflector identifies a tumour's location, guiding a surgeon on the shortest route for removal.

Westmead Private Hospital breast surgeon Associate Professor Farid Meybodi said this advanced technology significantly enhances the standard of care on offer.

"I feel incredibly privileged to offer procedures using the SCOUT Radar Localisation system to my patients," A/Prof Meybodi said.

"The wire-free approach allows more flexibility in surgical planning and execution and aligns with our commitment to adopting innovative technologies designed to improve surgical outcomes and patient experiences.

"The precision of the SCOUT System helps ensure complete removal of the lesion the first time, reducing the need for reoperations."

The use of the new, wireless system replaces the traditional method of location using a wire placed during an additional procedure prior to surgery.

"SCOUT eliminates the discomfort and inconvenience of inserting a wire on the day of surgery. This not only reduces the physical discomfort for the patient but also lessens pre-operative anxiety," he said.

"One of the most significant sources of stress for patients facing surgery is the anticipation and preparation for multiple interventions on the day of their operation. The SCOUT system alleviates this by reducing the need for pre-surgical localisation.

"Also, because the reflector can be placed even a few days or months before surgery, it offers more flexibility in scheduling the surgery at a time that is most convenient for the patient, rather than coordinating multiple procedures tightly around the placement of a wire. This flexibility can significantly ease the logistical burden on patients."

The new system can also be used for removal of non-cancerous breast abnormalities. The SCOUT system was first used in the USA and has been used for more than half a million procedures worldwide. ■■



Moya Anderson, Dr Shehnarz Salindera and surgical assistant, Eilen Saekang with the new SCOUT technology at Baringa Private Hospital.

Baringa Private Hospital unveils new technology in regional Australian first

Breast cancer patients on the NSW mid north coast can, for the first time, access leading new technology to support their treatment close to home.

Baringa Private Hospital in Coffs Harbour has unveiled a new SCOUT system – the first to be installed outside a major Australian city.

Dr Shehnarz Salindera from the Coffs Harbour Breast Clinic said: "It's very exciting to be able to offer our regional community the latest technology in breast cancer care."

"The SCOUT system is designed to make breast cancer surgery more accurate and result in less unnecessary tissue loss during lumpectomy."

The SCOUT system helps a surgeon precisely locate tumours during surgery by using a tiny device, the size of a grain of rice, called a reflector. The reflector can identify a tumour's location, guiding a surgeon on the shortest route for removal. The reflector is inserted under local anaesthetic and replaces a traditional, wired approach.

Baringa Private Hospital CEO, Jo Brown, said she hoped the new technology would make treatment a little easier for patients with breast cancer.

"This system reduces the number of procedures a patient will go through on the day of their surgery," Ms Brown said.

"I'm so pleased to be able to offer the local community access to this technology, which was previously only available in large metropolitan cities." ■■

Ramsay Health Care partners with Health Careers International and Arizona State University to address healthcare workforce shortages

Ramsay Health Care has partnered with Health Careers International Australia (HCI) and Arizona State University to deliver HCI's new *Education for Employment* model and create global opportunities for nursing and health sciences students.



Dr Bijo Kunumpurath, Managing Director and CEO of HCI Australia (third from right) with Ramsay staff members (Left to right) Lee Godino, Hannah Chiltern, Libby Godden, A/Prof Bernadette Eather, Rachel Gale.

In Australia, nurses and midwives represent the largest professional groups within the health care workforce, with the health care and social assistance sectors forecast to grow by an additional 533,000 roles between 2023 and 2033¹.

This new partnership aims to increase the number of qualified nurses, and support sub-speciality qualifications, to promote the full scope of practice of nurses and help meet the changing needs of Australia's health care system.

Ramsay Health Care's Chief Nurse and Clinical Services Director, A/Professor Bernadette Eather, said:

"We're excited to be partnering with HCI, which has an excellent reputation for student satisfaction and graduate employment. Ramsay is very focussed on providing a comprehensive career pathway for nurses and midwives. We are committed to ensuring accessible education for regional

Australians and to training the workforce of the future to meet the needs of the healthcare sector. This partnership with HCI and ASU will support the development of a highly skilled workforce, which is essential for the delivery of high quality, safe and effective clinical care for our patients."

Dr. Bijo Kunumpurath, founder and CEO of HCI said: "This collaboration marks a milestone in our mission to enhance the education experience for our students, to provide clear pathways to employment after graduation, and to empower Australian and international students to thrive in the evolving global healthcare landscape. This partnership leverages ASU's world-class content and robust learning resources to increase students' employability, while our collaboration with Ramsay Health Care ensures undergraduates receive well supported clinical placements."

Ramsay Health Care and HCI's shared vision for the future of healthcare education aligns with anticipated Australian government educational reforms in tertiary education, ensuring HCI's programs will remain at the forefront of industry standards. The partnership will also support the work of Ramsay's Nursing and Midwifery Academy, which is focussed on developing a comprehensive career pathway for nurses and midwives from undergraduate level to leadership and research.

The partnership will become part of the highly regarded ASU-Cintana Alliance, a global network of future-focused universities working together to deliver quality academic programs addressing economic and social needs.

It will be ASU-Cintana Alliance's first foray into the Australian higher education sector, as well as Ramsay Health Care's first strategic partnership of this kind with a tertiary education provider, at a time when innovative education solutions are needed to address major healthcare workforce shortages on a global scale. ■■

¹ <https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/data/employment-projections>

New study proves value of Ramsay Early Parenting Centres

A recent research project funded by the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation has confirmed that Ramsay's Early Parenting Centres are effective in reducing postnatal anxiety and fatigue.

Psychiatrist Professor Jane Fisher and colleagues studied the impact of a five-day residential program offered at Masada Private Hospital's Early Parenting Centre.

The study analysed comprehensive data collected from over 1200 women and their infants and highlights the effectiveness of a 5-day residential early parenting psychoeducational program, in reducing maternal anxiety and fatigue symptoms, as well as postnatal depressive symptoms.

The published findings, appearing in the *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology and Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, show a significant reduction in anxiety and fatigue symptoms among participating mothers.

Ramsay Health Care has six Early Parenting Centres across Australia, designed to help parents overcome the physical, emotional and social challenges a new baby can bring. ■■



Ramsay Pharmacy welcomes intern class of 2024

Inaugural White Coat Ceremonies have been held throughout Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland to welcome Ramsay Pharmacy's 2024 interns.

This year, 51 new interns have joined Ramsay Pharmacy, for the year-long internship program.

CEO Ramsay Pharmacy and Psychology Group, Michelle Lynch said:

“White Coat Ceremonies are a wonderful way to officially welcome our newest interns to Ramsay Pharmacy. We are excited to support them at the beginning of their professional pharmacist career.”

During the ceremonies, interns received their pharmacist white coat to officially induct them to the pharmacy profession, as well as a personalised Australian Medicines Handbook to assist in their studies and examinations this year.

The Ramsay Pharmacy internship program began in 2020. In 2023, 47 interns took part, with all 47 offered permanent employment after the completion of the program. ■■



White Coat Ceremonies in Victoria at St Kilda Road Office (top), NSW at St George Private Hospital (bottom left) and Queensland at Greenslopes Private Hospital (bottom right).



Ramsay Pharmacy vaccinates Australians ahead of flu season

Last year, more than a quarter of a million Australians were struck down by influenza during the flu season, which began earlier and lasted longer than usual.*

In early May, Ramsay Pharmacy administered its 10,000th flu shot for the year.

Ramsay Pharmacist, Alex Mackenzie-Templar, said an early vaccination will give your immune system the best chance of building immunity before flu viruses began to circulate widely in the community.

“Between March and May is the ideal time to get your flu vaccine, before the cold weather really sets in,” Mr Mackenzie-Templar said.

“The flu shot is the most effective way to ward off the flu for you and the people around you. It is particularly important for

our most vulnerable community members including people with pre-existing respiratory conditions, those over the age of 65, pregnant women and young people.”

“It’s also an important time to practice good hand hygiene, cover coughs and sneezes and disinfect frequently touched surfaces to reduce your risk of illness.

“And if you or a loved one are sick, please stay home to get well and keep the rest of the community safe.” ■■

*Source: <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/aisr-2023-national-influenza-season-summary.pdf>



Ramsay Pharmacy Online launches ‘Petscriptions’

Animal lovers can now have their pet’s scripts filled at the same time as they shop for their own medications and pharmacy products, with the launch of “Petscriptions®” at Ramsay Pharmacy Online.

CEO Ramsay Pharmacy and Psychology, Michelle Lynch, said more than 90 products were available for delivery for dogs, cats, horses and more.

“Our online pharmacy has been immensely popular, as we know people look for value and convenience in their busy lives. It’s no different when it comes to looking after our beloved pets,” Ms Lynch said.

“We have pet specific products for an array of chronic conditions and can deliver them straight to your door, across the country.” ■■

Three new Ramsay Health Plus clinics open in WA

Three new Ramsay Health Plus allied health clinics have opened in Western Australia, bringing the total to 36 sites around the country.

Situated at Joondalup, West Perth and Mount Pleasant, these clinics are set to enhance Ramsay's healthcare offerings in the region.

The new clinics offer a comprehensive range of services including physiotherapy, dietetics, occupational therapy, and more. Each clinic is conveniently co-located with a Ramsay Psychology clinic, allowing for seamless integration of services ensuring a holistic approach to patient care.

Ramsay is committed to providing a continuum of care that meets the diverse needs of the communities we serve. ■■



Celebrating four years of Ramsay Connect

Ramsay Connect recently chalked up its fourth anniversary of empowering people to lead healthier lives through a range of home and community-based services. Ramsay Connect now provides over 45,000 in-home and virtual care consultations annually.

CEO Ramsay Connect, Ian Galvin, said: "Congratulations to everyone associated with Ramsay Connect on four years of providing high quality multidisciplinary care for patients in their homes and communities."

"None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated team, partners, and stakeholders. Together, we have set new benchmarks in the healthcare industry and are committed to driving further innovation and progress." ■■



Ramsay Connect and Australian Unity Aboriginal Home Health staff at one of the project workshops on Bundjalung Country.

Ramsay Connect working to develop Diabetes Virtual Service

Ramsay Connect is working to develop and refine a culturally safe and appropriate model of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with diabetes.

Utilising Ramsay Connect's experience and expertise in virtual integrated care, in partnership with Australian Unity's Aboriginal Home Health Service (AU-AHHS), a series of yarning sessions and workshops recently took place on Bundjalung Country (Tweed Heads, Northern NSW). These sessions were held with Elders with lived experience of diabetes, Australian Unity Aboriginal Home Health staff already supporting Elders with their aged care needs, and other local providers in the area to ensure the service integrates into existing services in the community.

The project, titled Diabetes Using Our Strengths Service, leverages the existing strengths within the Bundjalung community. These include community and family connections, as well as social supports to improve the outcomes of those living with Type 2 Diabetes. Once the model is refined, the service will be implemented and evaluated in collaboration with University of Queensland. ■■



Annie celebrates 60 years of nursing

Inspired by a stay in hospital, 17-year-old Anne McFarlane began nurse training at Sydney Hospital in 1964. Six decades later, Annie is still caring for patients, now as a perioperative nurse at Nowra Private Hospital on the New South Wales south coast.

"I spent some time in hospital as a young teenager and loved what the nurses were doing," Annie explained. "And I did some office work for a time and hated it!"

"I started nursing in 1964 and haven't looked back. I joined Nowra Private Hospital in 1991 and have been working in the operating theatres ever since."

Annie has worked across a range of roles, including as a scout nurse and scrub nurse and in anaesthetics but, no matter the role, she says the most important thing is patient care.

"In theatre, we often see patients who are anxious or frightened about the procedure, so being able to help them relax is important and something I really enjoy," she said.

"My mantra is to come to work happy, do the best job I can



Annie at her 60 years of nursing celebration.



Annie in her 1967 in her fourth year of nursing at Sydney Hospital.

and make someone laugh."

A highlight of her career has been the friends Annie has made along the way.

"I have made some lovely friends among my nursing and medical colleagues over the years," she said.

"Some of the best times were during my training, living with the other nurses who were going through the same experiences. Some of those women are still my closest friends and I am meeting with three of them soon to celebrate our shared milestone."

However, it is not just the people that have kept Annie in nursing for so long.

"Nursing has changed a lot over the years which has been both exciting and sometimes daunting, but it keeps my brain and my body moving and makes me feel alive," she said.

"Nursing is the thing I know best but it's more than that, I like to care for people. Caring seems to be my nature, whether caring for patients or family or friends."

Nowra Private Hospital CEO, Sharon Walsh, said the hospital was privileged to have Annie as part of the team.

"Her experience, kindness and dedication to her patients is remarkable and worth celebrating," Ms Walsh said. ■



23 Ramsay team members awarded scholarships

The recipients of the first round of Ramsay's 2024 National Scholarship Program have been awarded, with 23 Ramsay team members from around Australia selected to receive scholarships.

The funding has been awarded for professional development opportunities benefiting both individuals and their facilities, including:

- Vanessa Hopp, Registered Nurse Endoscopy from Pindara Private who will attend the Sydney International Endoscopy Symposium.
- Delise Chong, Clinical Psychologist from Hollywood Private Hospital who will attend a 'Radically Open Dialectical Behaviour Therapy' course with her team.
- Nicole Hurtak, Clinical Coder from Wollongong Private Hospital who will attend a 'Undertake highly complex clinical coding' course.

Ramsay CEO, Carmel Monaghan, said: "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." ■





Pledge to save 100 million plastic items from landfill

Ramsay Health Care has set its sights on removing 100 million single-use plastic items from landfill, after successfully surpassing its previous goal of 75 million.

CEO, Carmel Monaghan, said the move to sustainable alternatives for many single-use plastic items was part of Ramsay’s ongoing commitment to a healthier planet. “We recognise that small changes can go a long way to creating a healthier planet for generations to come. Ramsay is committed to substantially reducing single-use plastics in our

hospitals,” Ms Monaghan said. “We launched this initiative in 2020, and last February surpassed the 50 million mark. I’m pleased to confirm we have now surpassed our latest target of 75 million, and we’re not stopping here. “We’re now working to remove 100 million plastic items from

landfill by March 2025.” Ramsay has so far swapped out 12 million medicine cups, over 8.6 million drinking cups and 6.3 million pieces of cutlery for sustainable alternatives. Separately, since 2021 the company has also been replacing 6 million plastic water bottles each year with water jugs. ■■

Ramsay Clinic Thirroul goes solar



The view from above at Ramsay Clinic Thirroul.

Ramsay Clinic Thirroul has unveiled a new 81.75-kilowatt solar panel system.

Director of Ramsay Mental Health, Anne Mortimer, said the system featured 150 solar panels set to power the 43-bed facility. “Installing solar panels is great for the environment and creating a more sustainable clinic for the future,” Ms Mortimer said. “The new solar panel system will save more than 90 tonnes of carbon emissions per year.

“We know that healthy people depend on a healthy planet and I’m proud our clinic is taking practical steps to help tackle climate change.” ■■

Hillcrest Rockhampton is “Investing in Us”

Hillcrest Rockhampton Private Hospital is tapping into the knowledge of its many visiting medical officers to improve the skills, confidence and knowledge of its theatre teams.

The hospital has signed up specialists, including orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Glenn Gomez, and anaesthetist, Dr Thiago Moreira to deliver education sessions to the perioperative team.

“The team at Hillcrest firmly believe that continuous learning and collaboration are key to providing high quality patient care,” Hillcrest Rockhampton Director of Clinical Service, Kristine Kelly said.

“Our approach involves empowering doctors to take an active role in educating our surgical teams through doctor-led education sessions within our operating theatres.”

Orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Glenn Gomez was the first VMO to take part, delivering a session on orthopaedic trauma, followed by anaesthetist, Dr Thiago Moreira who presented on difficult airways and anaphylaxis.

“We are proud to see our doctors embrace this educational model with enthusiasm and dedication,” Ms Kelly said.



Dr Gomez (above right) and Dr Moreira (below) educating Hillcrest Rockhampton surgical teams.



Front L-R: Clinical Nurse Specialist Tania Leach (seated), Clinical Nurse Manager Kate Caldcleugh-Johnson, and Deputy Director of Clinical Services Michelle Young, with Complex Care Team.

Dementia carers finalists in WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards

Joondalup Health Campus’ Complex Care Team has been named as one of four finalists in the WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence (WANMEA) Awards’ Person Centred Care – Team Award.

The Complex Care Team (CCT) prioritises the health, safety and well-being of patients admitted with dementia and delirium by delivering personalised, supportive and compassionate care during a hospital stay.

Director of Clinical Services Mary Ferrier said the team, led by Deputy Director of Medical Services Michelle Young, Clinical Nurse Manager Kate Caldcleugh-Johnson, and Clinical Nurse Specialist Tania Leach, have significantly changed the approach to caring for those experiencing dementia or delirium.

“In July last year we acted on the CCT’s recommendation for the Complex Care Unit to be moved from a standard hospital ward to its new location on the ground floor, which has 25 rooms, ten with direct courtyard access, and a communal garden,” she said.

“It was an excellent idea as the patients, who are low acuity and preparing to return home, to a nursing home, or being assessed for aged care, can move freely around a secure home-like environment.

“Previously the patients required 1:1 or 1:2 carer support and now have the freedom to move about the home-like environment and socialise with others in a communal lounge/dining area. This helps them to overcome social isolation which we know to be so harmful to mental and physical wellbeing,” she said.

Clinical Nurse Manager Kate Caldcleugh-Johnson said the team has been recruited for their expertise and passion for caring for those experiencing dementia or delirium.

“It’s a wonderful group and we run a 7-day rotating schedule of meaningful morning and afternoon activities for our patients which include games, pet therapy, art, and karaoke,” she said.

“We’re meeting their clinical needs while ensuring that they feel as comfortable as possible and we go out of our way to incorporate their daily routines into their care- things like supporting showering at the same time as they would shower at home,” she said.

Data shows the CCU has had a 25 per cent reduction in falls from bed and around a 45 per cent reduction in Code Blacks since their move to the new ward.

To better meet the needs of cognitively impaired patients on acute wards, patients are flagged for review by Clinical Nurse Specialist Tania Leach.

“My role is to guide and support ward staff to provide best practice care to this vulnerable cohort,” she said.

“Through the provision of education, developmental opportunities and appropriate resources, staff are empowered and able to care for patients with dementia and delirium,” she said.

Deputy Director of Clinical Services Michelle Young said that patients and families are impressed with the level of individualised care that they receive.

“It really is a very uplifting environment, and the staff go above and beyond to ensure patients and families feel comfortable and safe,” she said.



Upper GI workshop brings staff together at Strathfield

The Education Team at Strathfield Private Hospital, in conjunction with Medtronic, recently held an Upper GI Education Day for staff from Strathfield and North Shore Private Hospitals, as well as nearby Concord Hospital.

General surgeon, Dr David Martin presented two sessions to the audience of ward and theatre nurses relating to laparoscopic hiatus hernia repair, gastric cancer surgery, sleeve gastrectomy and best practice pre and post operative care.

The afternoon also included five hands on activity stations.

Strathfield Theatre Nurse Educator, Maryanne Georges, said the sessions were a major success.

"We take education very seriously at Strathfield Private. At the upper GI education day staff were able to interact with different hernia mesh, staples, wound closure and trocars as well as smoke evacuators and ligation devices," Ms Georges said.

"Feedback was fantastic and we look to our next education event." 📌

Images from the Upper GI workshop at Strathfield Private Hospital.



Movements and Appointments

ASHLEY BAKER

has been appointed Deputy CEO of the new Newcastle and Berkeley Vale Network, focussing primarily on Warners Bay and Berkeley Vale Private Hospitals. Ashley has most recently served as the Director of Clinical Services at Warners Bay Private Hospital. Ashley has more than 20 year's health care experience, including many years in executive roles.

GAURAV BAPAT

has been appointed to the director of finance position at Tamara Private Hospital in Tamworth, NSW. Gaurav's experience includes Finance Manager roles with Hunter New England Health. He has been responsible for the financial management of six health facilities in the local health district. Gaurav is well acquainted with health care and management accounting, and has also been providing strategic advice to the executive management team. Gaurav holds a Masters of Commerce from Sydney University and is CPA qualified. Gaurav is a Tamworth local.

HEATHER BLACK

has been appointed Director of Clinical Services at Linacre Private Hospital. Heather has been with Ramsay for more than 20 years, having completed her graduate program here. Prior to this role Heather was the quality coordinator at Peninsula Private Hospital.

PAUL BOJE

will join Ramsay as the CEO across our Hospitals in the Albury-Wodonga Region. Paul joins Ramsay from Healix Limited, where he served as the National Manager of Hospitals and Health Funds, overseeing strategic and commercial management of pathology and imaging services nationwide. With 18 years of experience in healthcare, Paul's expertise ranges from clinical and operational to commercial roles.

BEN CHIARELLA

has returned to Ramsay as CEO of Dudley Private Hospital and Ramsay Surgical Centre, Orange. Ben lives locally in Orange and is an experienced healthcare executive having held positions in Aged and Community Services, Rural and Remote Medical Services and most recently with the Western NSW Local Health District. Ben was the Director of Clinical Innovation for Ramsay Connect from 2022 to 2023 and is well versed in The Ramsay Way culture.

LAUREN CURLEY

has joined Ramsay as the Chief Operating Officer – Ramsay Pharmacy and Psychology Group. Lauren has come from Medibank where she held various executive positions which include leading Medibank and AHM's insurance operations and in more recent years leading Medibank's hospital in the home nursing services, mobile allied health services and chronic disease programs. Lauren has extensive experience in developing and implementing strategies across the health sector. Her passion lies in enhancing and creating a connected consumer experience, fostering employee engagement and optimising for operational efficiency.

KELLY GRANT

has joined Ramsay as CEO of North West and Caboolture Private Hospitals in Queensland. Kelly is an experienced hospital executive with a finance background who has held many General Manager/CEO positions through her career. Kelly most recently worked as the General Manager at Sunnybank Private Hospital.

LIAM MASON

has been appointed to the role of Director of Finance role at Greenslopes Private Hospital, following a period of acting in this role. Liam is a qualified Chartered Accountant and experienced finance operator with a background in aged care, retail, health care and private industries. Liam joined Ramsay in 2022 in the role of Head of Commercial Performance – Hospitals.

LISA McVEIGH

has been appointed to the Director of Finance position at Strathfield Private Hospital in Sydney. Lisa has significant health care experience having held Finance Manager positions with Healthscope, Health Care, and Macquarie in both the corporate setting and hospitals. Lisa is CPA qualified and an Associate member with the Tax Institute. Lisa commenced in a temporary role earlier this year and has now been appointed on a permanent basis.

MELANIE ROY

has been appointed Director of Clinical Services at Ramsay Clinic Northside. Melanie joined Ramsay Clinic Northside in 2021 as Unit Manager, Eating Disorders, and has also completed secondments as Acting Director of Clinical Services, Allied Health Manager and Day Program Manager during this period. Melanie holds a postgraduate Clinical Honours and a Masters of Mental Health Nursing with Distinction, and is currently participating in Ramsay's Nurse Leaders of Tomorrow program.

GREG WEINSTEIN

has been appointed to the role of Head of Commercial Performance, Hospitals. Greg started his career with Ramsay in 2019, partnering with hospital executives in WA and SA on the commercial performance of their sites, a challenging task during the COVID pandemic. In 2021 Greg supported the launch and subsequent growth of our Health Services portfolio, and in the past six months has been helping to refine Ramsay's long-term ambition and strategic direction. Greg will play an important role in fostering collaboration across all of Ramsay and ensuring alignment of financial objectives with our overarching business goals.



Photos from Hollywood Private Hospital's 30th anniversary celebrations.

Hollywood celebrates 30 years

Hollywood Private Hospital in Western Australia recently commemorated its 30th anniversary, marking three decades of transformative healthcare and continuous innovation.

Hollywood Private Hospital Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Tome, said that he was incredibly proud of Hollywood Private's success story.

"In the past 30 years, we have more than tripled our bed numbers, we have come leaps and bounds in terms of medical services, infrastructure and advances in technology," Mr Tome said.

"In February of 1994, the hospital had just 207 accredited visiting medical specialists and now, we have some 800+ specialists working over a wide range of disciplines and we employ close to 2,550 employees in diverse roles."

Mr Tome said that in addition to building bigger, better facilities and bringing in new technology they have also been growing their services.

"We have expanded our mental health clinic to make it the largest standalone private mental health hospital in WA, opened the first private emergency department north of the river, and introduced cardio thoracic surgery and TAVI procedures. We admit around 85,000 inpatients each year, carry out more than 55,000 surgeries and treat around 15,000 emergency patients annually."

Mr Tome expressed immense gratitude to the culture that continues to grow with Hollywood Private Hospital.

"Collectively, this group - our doctors, staff and volunteers - are the heart and soul of Hollywood, they are the reason the community continues to respect and trust our hospital." ■■

Celebrating 25 years of "small but mighty" Caboolture Private Hospital



Staff at Caboolture Private Hospital in 1999.



Staff at Caboolture Private Hospital in 2024.

Staff and doctors from Caboolture Private Hospital gathered in April to celebrate 25 years of providing leading private health care to the people of south-east Queensland.

Caboolture Private Hospital opened its doors on the first of February 1999, and was the first collocated hospital in Queensland, adjoining the Caboolture Public Hospital.

Ramsay Australia CEO, Carmel Monaghan, reflected on the hospital's remarkable history in her speech, saying:

"When Caboolture Private first opened in 1999, it marked a historic moment in Queensland healthcare. It was the first time a private hospital stood side-by-side with its public counterpart, forging a new path in collaborative care.

"Many of you might remember the early days, when the area was just bushland – we had a dirt carpark and the occasional surprise visit from a snake!

"But from these humble beginnings Caboolture Private has grown its services and reputation. And it has done so in a way that complements the services provided by the collocated public hospital to create a sustainable platform for both hospitals to expand.

"In 2015, we invested \$8 million in a third theatre and dedicated day surgery unit. It was an innovative design and build with all sections constructed off site, then delivered on 28 separate semi-trailers and joined together over the course of a single, very busy weekend!

"Now we care for more than 9,000 local patients each year and, every month, hundreds of cancer patients seek our support with the very best care and treatment.

"A term often used to describe Caboolture Private is "small but mighty". This perfectly captures the essence of the amazing team, who go above and beyond to provide the best quality care and never losing the warmth and friendliness that the hospital is known for." ■■

Photos from Caboolture Private Hospital's 25th anniversary celebrations.

