

# Chief Executive *update*

## A FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

12 – 25 March 2007



### Great boost to services in the Shoalhaven

I am truly delighted to see the benefits of amalgamating the former Illawarra and South Eastern Sydney area health services consolidating across SESIH.

Improving and expanding healthcare services to residents in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions was a priority of the amalgamation – one that I can confidently report is now being reflected in better services in our Southern Hospital Network.

NSW Health Minister John Hatzistergos visited Shoalhaven Hospital earlier this month to announce its reclassification from "district" status to a specialist rural referral hospital.

The reclassification recognises the high level of care provided at the hospital and is great news for patients and staff.

Shoalhaven residents and the many tourists the area hosts will also be pleased to know they are soon to get an after-hours GP clinic in the area.



*Minister Hatzistergos announces good news for the Shoalhaven, flanked by ALP candidate for the South Coast Michelle Miran and Kiama MP Matt Brown.*

The \$500,000 clinic, to be co-located with the Hospital, will ensure faster treatment for people attending the emergency department.

Specifically aimed at patients with less complex conditions, the clinic will be overseen by the Shoalhaven Division of General Practice and managed by the Hospital.

While on the South Coast, Minister Hatzistergos also announced that planning will soon begin to develop a *HealthOne NSW* "one-stop shop" at Sussex Inlet.

This team-based initiative will link GPs, community and allied health staff in providing better care for patients.

With the State Plan's emphasis on preventative health, SESIH health workers can be assured of receiving continuing encouragement and support in their quest to provide better care for the people they serve.

**Professor Debora Picone AM**  
Chief Executive

### Cancer survivors hit the water and slay their dragons

It's always inspiring to see patients recover from major illnesses, and never more so than when they get back out in the community and show off their zest for life.

We now know that breast cancer patients who exercise, maintain ideal body weight and attend support groups live longer and live better.

So on Sunday 25 February, 20 doctors, nurses and support staff from St George and Sutherland Hospitals' Cancer Care Services competed against 11 other teams in the annual Dragons Abreast Hospital Dragon Boat Race at Darling Harbour.

In a great display of patient-clinician partnership, SGH oncologist Dr Jodi Lynch first joined a dragon boat crew in 2005 at the request of a patient, Jenny Petterson. This year Jodi competed with Jenny and her twin sister, Joanne.

Money raised during the event will be used to fund a national 1300 enquiry



*Jenny Petterson (Dragons Abreast), Dr Jodi Lynch (SGH Oncology Staff Specialist), Ann Tattle (TSH Oncology Clinic Manager) and Joanne Petterson (Dragons Abreast).*

line to help survivors of breast cancer find their closest Dragons Abreast club. Now, that's a worthy cause! Well done, everyone.