

The Sydney Children's Hospital (SCH) and Community Child Health Services has multi-level roles. These include serving the local community as a lead paediatric agency for South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Health and the Greater Eastern and Southern NSW Children Health Network (GESCHN), and at a state and national level in contributing to the direction of child health services.

The hospital is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for child health with a full range of specialist services treating children from all over NSW and Australia with many conditions including cancer, trauma, HIV/AIDS, congenital abnormalities, heart disease and respiratory disorders.

Summary of business activity

- ▶ In 2006 - 07, the overall hospital inpatient activity increased by 2.7 percent to a new peak total of 14,555. Non-admitted occasions of service for the year totalled 318,589, representing an overall increment of 10.2 percent.
- ▶ The Emergency Department's busiest winter months peaked at 30 percent higher activity than last year. Despite this, SCH was the only metropolitan hospital to meet all emergency department benchmarks in NSW for the April-June period.
- ▶ While the cumulative full year impact in the Emergency Department is up by a more modest 7.4 percent to 34,026 presentations, this, in the context of annual trends over several years, signals important challenges for service delivery and planning processes.
- ▶ Bed occupancy rates averaged 92 percent for the year. The rate of 96.6 percent in December suggested that inpatient activity levels were higher than expected during the seasonal downturn.
- ▶ As of June 2007 there were no patients on the waiting list who have waited more than 12 months for admission, and no patients waiting longer than one month in the most urgent waiting list category.

Major goals and outcomes

- ▶ Received the maximum four-year period of ACHS accreditation without any limitations.
- ▶ Successfully halved Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) outpatient waiting times from more than 12 months to six months or less. This was achieved through improved assessment of written referrals from clinicians as well as referring patients with district level problems from out of the catchment area back to their local community. These strategies will now be explored in other clinical services.
- ▶ SCH was formalised as lead agent for child and adolescent health in South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Health, with the appointment of Professor Les White to the position of Director of Child and Adolescent Clinical Stream.
- ▶ The Pain and Palliative Care Services combined to function as a single unit.
- ▶ New initiatives in Aboriginal health were established including:
 - an Aboriginal cord blood program with Royal Darwin Hospital,
 - the inaugural Aboriginal Child Health Forum run by Greater Eastern and Southern NSW Child Health Network,
 - new community based Aboriginal services.

Key issues and events

- ▶ The Sydney Cord and Marrow Transplant Facility was officially opened by Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC.
- ▶ A Virtual Tour for children going to theatre was launched on the SCH website.
- ▶ SCH celebrated the 10th anniversary of Clown Doctors in Australia.

Future directions

- ▶ In 2007 - 08, SCH aims to address space restraints with the commencement of a new clinical services building.