

11 May 2009

**MEDIA RELEASE**



**Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation Pays Tribute to “Nightingale” Nurses at the International Nurses Day Breakfast - Prince of Wales Hospital**

Time: 7:15am – 8:30am  
Date: Friday 15 May 2009  
Venue: Function Room in the historic Edmund Blacket Building  
Prince of Wales Hospital, Barker Street, Randwick NSW

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On Friday 15 May, the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation (POWHF) will celebrate International Nurses Day by paying tribute to the night duty nurses and overall excellence in healthcare in nursing practice at Prince of Wales Hospital (POWH).

The birthday of Florence Nightingale (known as “the lady with the lamp” and the founder of modern nursing) marks a global celebration that pays tribute to the outstanding professional qualities and dedication of nurses and their remarkable contribution to healthcare and the personal and social well-being of our community.

POWHF will host a celebratory breakfast to acknowledge the dedication and specialised care provided by the night duty nursing staff at the Hospital, with special guests including Paul Pearce MP, Ms. Sandi Chick on behalf of Peter Garrett MP, Tom O’Callaghan POWHF Chairman, Tina Clark POWHF Director and patient, and Roy Billing, star of Underbelly.

Roy Billing paid tribute to the Hospital’s night duty nursing staff saying, “At some point in our life, we are all reliant on the expertise and dedication of nurses to give us more than the specialised care the profession embodies, but also the compassion that helps us through, often when we feel most alone - in the dead of night and the wee small hours of the morning.”

“I can’t imagine where we would be without these amazing men and women who give so much of themselves to others,” Billing said.

Robyn Little RN, one of the Hospital’s senior after hours nurses, commenced her career in 1967 at Prince Henry Hospital and for the past eight years has worked at POWH in after hours management on a rotational roster of afternoon, evening and night duty shifts.

“Working night Duty is so different from other shifts,” said Ms Little.

“The hours we work can be as busy as the day time hours as our doors are never closed. While our focus remains on clinical care, much of our work is dedicated to providing that extra care that the night nurses give to the vulnerable ill and injured patients, which gives us a great deal of personal and professional satisfaction. The rewards for us are enormous,” she said.

Leanne Zalapa, Chief Executive Officer POWHF who has spent much of her working life in the nursing profession, praised the high standard of care provided by the nurses at POWH.

“In dealing with the challenges associated with working in healthcare, a life of shiftwork and ongoing education as techniques and technologies are developed, nursing is more than a job, it is a highly specialised, respected profession that demands commitment to medical excellence coupled with humanity and compassion,” said Zalapa.

“The week of International Nurses Day provides us all with the opportunity to thank those who dedicate their life’s work to healthcare for the community and it is a tremendous honour to host this celebration for the Hospital’s night duty nursing staff,” she said.

*The Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation International Nurses Day Breakfast is proudly sponsored by: Buzy Bakehouse, Roberts Coffee Cart, Woolworths (Randwick), Amazing Soaps and Roses Only.*

## **ENDS**

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### **Interview and photo opportunities include:**

- POWH nursing staff
- Ms. Sandi Chick on behalf of Peter Garrett MP
- Tom O’Callaghan POWHF Chairman
- Tina Clark POWHF Director and patient
- Ms. Leanne Zalapa – CEO POWHF
- Roy Billing, star of Underbelly.

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

### **To RSVP or to arrange an interview or photo opportunity, please contact:**

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## **JOURNALIST NOTES**

### **Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation**

The Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation POWH was formed exclusively for public charitable purposes to encourage, support, and assist The Prince of Wales Hospital in the fields of research, education, and any particular activities and projects of the Hospital. We are dedicated to promoting the Prince of Wales Hospital and its dedicated staff

The Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation has strong links with the community to assist in their endeavour to create better community and health awareness in relation to the Hospital and the Foundation.

More and more today, individuals and families are finding that by making donations to organisations they feel passionate about has a measurable impact on the organisation they support. Giving to the POWH foundation can help build healthier communities for us and our families.

## **Prince of Wales Hospital**

Prince of Wales Hospital is a major teaching hospital and a leading treatment centre in a variety of medical, surgical and allied health fields. Based in Sydney's eastern suburbs, the Hospital provides specialised services for patients from all corners of New South Wales.

The Hospital is affiliated with the University of NSW, one of the premier medical teaching facilities in Australia. This assists us to provide excellence in care in conjunction with our commitment to clinical teaching and medical research.

Prince of Wales Hospital is also an internationally respected leader in multiple clinical and scientific research programs including cancer, spinal medicine and neurosciences.

### **Our Mission**

Setting the example for integrity, compassion, and leadership, POWH strives to:

- Provide high quality, health care emphasising the development and dissemination of new knowledge and cutting-edge technology
- Improve access to health care and education for all through community service and outreach to POWH's populations
- Educate tomorrow's health and high-technology professionals, scientists, environmental engineers, and managers for leadership in their fields
- Explore new basic and applied research frontiers in health and biomedical sciences, environmental engineering, computation, and information technology

### **Facts about Prince of Wales Hospital**

As (one of 13) a principal referral hospital for adults in New South Wales we provide our patients with a broad range of medical and surgical services as well as specialised care in neurosciences, acute spinal medicine, oncology and hyperbaric medicine services.

The Hospital has:

- 500 beds, an average occupancy rate (number of beds occupied) of well over 90%
- We employ almost 3,000 staff
- Each year more than 30,000 acute patients are admitted
- Approximately 40,000 patients are treated in our Emergency Department.
- We also attend to around 900,000 non-admitted patient occasions of service each year through our Community Health, outpatients and rural outreach services.