



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **International Award for Bethesda Hospital Hand Hygiene.**

Bethesda Hospital has just been announced as the winner of the Asia Pacific Hand Hygiene Excellence Award 2012/2013. Hospital representatives will now travel to Shanghai next month to receive the award and showcase their infection control initiatives to an international audience at the International Congress of the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control.

The Hand Hygiene Excellence Awards were created in 2010 to recognize efforts made by Hospitals in support of the WHO first Global Patient Safety Challenge: Clean Care is Safer Care.

As well as entering a formal submission for the awards in October 2012, the Claremont based private Hospital was also subjected to a rigorous selection process by an expert panel. Once chosen as one of 6 finalists, the Hospital was visited by auditors and was announced as the overall winner this week.

Bethesda Hospital's commitment to hand hygiene commenced in 2009. Following a review based on the WHO and Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) Initiatives, the Hospital commenced their hand hygiene implementation project. This included education and training on the "5 moments of hand hygiene" product placement, hand hygiene auditing and feedback.

The Hospital also promotes their hand hygiene project internally and externally through regular staff updates and training, posters, doctor newsletters, as well as patient engagement in the process.

Helen Bucknell, Bethesda Hospital's Infection Control Coordinator who has been instrumental in facilitating the hand hygiene implementation process noted that 'we were the first private Hospital in WA to report our annual compliance to HHA, and our results over the past five years have been impressive in their improvement'.

Hospital CEO Yasmin Naglazas said that ‘this international recognition is an amazing achievement for all of our staff and doctors, and we are honoured to showcase our hand hygiene initiatives with other health care providers next month’.

‘At Bethesda Hospital we are passionate about quality and safety, and we are confident that our patients are extremely well cared for during their stay with us’.

This latest award joins other external accolades for the Hospital including top rankings in the patient satisfaction survey’s conducted by health funds HBF and MPH. Bethesda Hospital has received the top spot for MBH and in the top three for HBF in the past two years out of 15 private Hospitals in WA.

Bethesda is an independent eighty eight bed hospital in Claremont which has been providing outstanding surgical and palliative care and service to the Western Australian community for nearly seventy years.

[www.bethesda.asn.au](http://www.bethesda.asn.au)

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Photo opportunities available.