



MEDIA RELEASE

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Hand Hygiene Award Winning Hospital Celebrates World Health Organisation (WHO) Hand Hygiene Day.

Bethesda Hospital's commitment to hand hygiene will be showcased this week as part of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Hand Hygiene global annual campaign. The WHO theme is Save Lives: Clean Your Hands, and Bethesda Hospital in Claremont will be sharing their hand hygiene initiatives with their patients, visitors, staff and doctors.

There will be opportunities to participate in hand hygiene competitions as well as promotional activities for patients, visitors, children and staff. There will also be an interactive display in the Hospital foyer featuring key messages from the WHO global campaign.

The hospital's initiatives in hand hygiene have been internationally recognized, as they were awarded the WHO Asia Pacific Hand Hygiene Excellence / Innovation Award 2012/2013. Hospital representatives travelled to Shanghai last month to receive the award and showcase their hand hygiene initiatives to an international audience at the International Congress of the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control.

Helen Bucknell, Bethesda Hospital's Infection Control Manager, who has been instrumental in the hand hygiene project implementation process, has now been invited to present Bethesda's hand hygiene program at 2nd International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control to be held in Geneva Switzerland.

Helen said that 'health care acquired infections have life-long consequences, and the hospital recognises the importance of having best practice infection prevention and control management systems in place. We have a robust clinical governance program and the safety and quality of patient care is a priority'.

The WHO Hand Hygiene program, promoted through Hand Hygiene Australia, is seen as a key initiative to ensure patient outcomes were optimal through multi-modal hand hygiene programs.

'Even though we have been externally recognized for our hand hygiene program, we will continue to strive to achieve improved hand hygiene practices for all staff and consumers in our facility', Helen said.

This is the third year that Bethesda Hospital has celebrated the WHO hand hygiene annual global campaign, and each year the event grows in popularity with the hospital community.

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

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