



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**1 August 2014**

### **Years of Dedicated Service Celebrated at Bethesda Hospital**

At the annual Remembrance Foundation Day celebrations at Bethesda Hospital today, several staff members were recognized for their length of service, along with a celebration to mark the 'official' opening of the Hospital on the Claremont site in 1944. This year's celebrations took on even more significance, marking the 70<sup>th</sup> year of providing personalised care to the WA community.

Claremont Mayor Mr Jock Barker was the guest presenter at the ceremony, sharing stories of Bethesda's history along with Dr Neale Fong – Bethesda Hospital board chair, and two retired staff members who both worked with the Hospital's founder, Matron Beryl Hill.

Musical and vocal entertainment was provided throughout the day at the staff lunch, Chapel service, and the afternoon tea in the Hospital café.

Clinical Nurse (CN) Sonja Paterson and Anthony Dias, Patient Care Supervisor were recognized for 25 and 20 years of service respectively.

Sonja, who currently works in pre-admission three days a week, has worked in all areas of the Hospital. 'When I first started as a casual CN, the Hospital was more like a welcoming house', Sonja said.

'The staff are still as supportive and caring today as they were when the Hospital was much smaller and had fewer patients'.

Anthony started as a Hospital Orderly and he now oversees a team of sixteen Patient Care Assistants who play vital role in the patient care experience.

'I have seen many changes to the Hospital, including the expansion of the operating theatres from 3 to 7', Anthony said.

Eleven other staff members were recognized for 10 years of service at the Hospital.

Hospital CEO Ms Yasmin Naglazas noted that 'Remembrance Foundation Day is such an important day in the history of our Hospital - an annual day when we acknowledge Bethesda Hospital's heritage, its Christian beginnings and the commitment to care that continues today reflecting this'.

'It is also a pleasure to congratulate and reward the long serving staff members who make such a valuable contribution to our Hospital community'.

Bethesda Hospital is an independent eighty-eight bed award winning Hospital in Claremont which has been providing outstanding surgical and palliative care and service to the West Australian community for seventy years. A major redevelopment project is underway that will see new state –of-the –art operating theatres completed in late 2015.

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

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