



STIRLING
HOSPITAL

20 Milan Terrace, Stirling SA 5152

P. 08 8339 020 F. 08 8370 9395

www.stirlinghospital.org.au

STIRLING HOSPITAL *Spring 2024 Edition*

Stirling Hospital Community Engagement

In August 2024 Stirling Hospital held a community information forum which was well attended by members of the community. For anyone who missed out, the information below shares some of our recent achievements and ongoing challenges. We plan to hold community briefings twice a year.

PRIVATE HEALTH LANDSCAPE

There is no doubt that the private health sector in South Australia faces increasing pressure. The closure of numerous private hospitals in the past five years has placed additional strain on the public health system. Over the last decade, rising costs for consumables, wages and services have compounded these challenges. Unfortunately, revenue from health insurers has not kept pace with the true cost of care delivery. Being a small, regional hospital means Stirling Hospital has limited leverage with large insurers to secure full compensation, despite this revenue being our primary funding source.

Regardless of these challenges, we treated 3,615 day surgeries and 596 overnight stays in the FY23/24.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

We are finalising our FY23-24 financial report, and while an operating loss is expected, our detailed financials will be available later this year on the ACNC website. To improve cost efficiencies, we've collaborated with our specialists to optimise operating lists and increase patient admissions for both day surgery and overnight surgery admissions.

We are grateful for \$42,000 in donations and fundraising contributions this past financial year, all of which have been reinvested in patient equipment and care. We have sold our tickets for our upcoming quiz night on 26 October which has been a wonderful response of support from the community. We still have some trendy Stirling Hospital socks or umbrellas available for purchase from reception.

NEW SPECIALISTS AND SERVICES

We've been excited to welcome several new specialists, including two Orthopaedic surgeons, a Dermatologist and a Paediatric Dentist. Looking ahead, we hope to expand further with ENT specialists, Breast Surgeons, Urologists, Gastroenterologists and Ophthalmologists. This year, we welcomed Clinpath Pathology to our Hospital and launched a Comprehensive Respiratory Service, allowing patients to access lung function testing locally. We also commenced a sleep study service in the hospital in August 2024.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The year also saw the launch of a volunteer program and we welcomed consumer representatives to our Safety and Quality, Infection Control and Quiz Night committees. We also continued hosting many local community groups in our Boardroom. Additionally, we're developing a quarterly newsletter to keep everyone informed, alongside our ongoing social media efforts.

CAPITAL WORKS CHALLENGES

One of our most pressing challenges is upgrading the ventilation system in our theatre and procedure rooms. The estimated cost of these upgrades is around \$500,000. While we are still exploring funding options, our plan is for the Hospital to continue operations during the upgrade activities. We continue to seek funding assistance from the State Government and other partnership arrangements.



Delivering the Stirling Experience...



STIRLING
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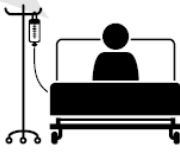











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 HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE July 2023 to June 2024		
 4212 total patient admissions	 3615 day surgery patients and 597 overnight patients	 80 total employees
 \$42K received in donations	 Accreditation achieved for 2024 – 2027	 7637 café sales
 88.2% hand hygiene overall compliance rate	 0% healthcare associated infection rate	 0.047% surgical site infection rate
 92.3% employee satisfaction	 95.05% doctor satisfaction	 98.7% patient satisfaction
 762 Facebook followers 84.1% of our followers are women and 15.9% are men	 499 Instagram followers 76.1% of our followers are women and 23.9% are men	 The largest % of followers are aged 35-44, followed by 45-54 and 25-34 year olds

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New Specialists at Stirling Hospital

We are pleased to welcome these new specialists to Stirling Hospital

Dr George Awwad
Orthopaedic Surgeon



Dr Awwad is an Orthopaedic Surgeon specialising in sports injuries and joint replacement, particularly of the knee and hip.

Dr Awwad graduated from The University of Adelaide in 2010 and undertook training in Orthopaedic Surgery in hospitals across SA and NSW. After becoming a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Australian Orthopaedic Association in 2020, Dr Awwad completed three Knee and Hip Fellowships in New South Wales. These covered the fields of Sports Injuries, Hip Replacement with the Direct Anterior Approach and Robotic Surgery for Knee and Hip Replacement.

For appointments contact 8267 8243, or visit the website at:
<https://drgeorgeawwad.com.au/>

Dr Martyna Berwertz
Pain Medicine and
Anaesthetics Specialist



Dr Berwertz is a highly regarded Pain Medicine specialist who is passionate about her patients and focused on delivering the best-tailored care.

Her individual approach includes collaboration with the multidisciplinary team to empower patients to change the life of one suffering to one coping successfully with chronic conditions.

Dr Berwertz advocates a holistic and well-balanced approach to pain management.

For appointments contact Pain Med SA, Pain and Rehabilitation Specialists, on 8340 7733 or visit the website at
<https://painmedsa.com>

Dr Anna Nicholson
Gynaecologist



Dr Anna Nicholson is one of the few Gynaecologists in South Australia who has completed the Australasian Gynaecological Endoscopy and Surgery (AGES) Fellowship. This has allowed her to develop skills in advanced endoscopic surgery including excision of severe endometriosis and fibroids and both laparoscopic and vNOTES hysterectomies.

Dr Nicholson aims to empower her patients to be able to live their lives to the fullest and is comfortable seeing people of all ages with gynaecological issues across the gender spectrum.

For appointments contact Advanced Gynaecological Surgery Centre (AGSC) on 8132 0566 or visit the website at:
<https://agsc.com.au>

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Stirling Hospital Services Update

New Service – Pain Medicine Management

Stirling Hospital is pleased to announce the launch of a new service for the community in the Adelaide Hills: a pain medicine service.

PainMedSA are pain specialists and rehabilitation specialists in the multi-disciplinary diagnosis, treatment & management of chronic pain conditions and Dr Martyna Berwertz is a dual trained specialist in pain medicine and anaesthesia in the UK, and she then immigrated to Australia in 2022.

At Stirling Hospital, she will be offering a chronic pain service. She is passionate about her patients and focused on delivering tailored care. Her individual approach includes collaboration with other specialists and the patient, this is called a multidisciplinary team approach to empower patients to change a life of suffering to a life of coping successfully with a chronic condition.

Martyna fully understands the impact of chronic pain on an individual's life and is proud to be able to actively support patients in their journey. Her specialist clinical interests include a wide range of pain conditions: neuropathic pain, spinal pain, chronic post-surgical pain, joint pain, neuromodulation (spinal cord stimulator, peripheral nerve stimulator), spinal interventions, nerve blocks, radiofrequency ablations, rhizotomy and platelet-rich plasma injections.

Appointments can be made to see Dr Martyna Berwertz at Stirling Hospital from November 2024 by calling Pain Med SA, Pain and Rehabilitation Specialists, on 8340 7733 or visiting <https://www.painmedsa.com>

Personify Care and FYDO

Stirling Hospital is thrilled to launch a new digital healthcare system to assist and support our patients in their admission journey, including pre-admission and post-discharge digital patient pathways, with Personify Care commencing in August 2024. The Hospital also moved its electronic patient management system to FYDO, which is designed to streamline business processes, automate workflows, and minimise paperwork.

Thanks to the two-way integration, the Stirling Hospital team now have real-time data synchronisation, ensuring documents and data are seamlessly updated across systems, reducing manual work, and providing a streamlined process. By embracing digital pathways, the Stirling Hospital team and patients will benefit from:

- ✓ Improved Patient Experience and Access
- ✓ Reduced Clinical Risk
- ✓ Efficiency Improvements

This is a significant step forward in the Hospital's commitment to delivering exceptional care, and the new systems will have a positive impact on our patients and staff.

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