



# Community Connect

Monthly Newsletter  
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Outstanding health care for our community

## Welcome to the December edition

Welcome to the December edition of Northern Health Community Connect, Northern Health's monthly community newsletter.

The 2017 calendar year has seen marked improvements in performance at Northern Health. Across a range of indicators, Northern Health has not only met and exceeded benchmarks and standards but has been recognised for achieving these milestones.



The Northern Hospital operates Victoria's busiest emergency department, treating over 92,000 patients each year, and the demand for our services continues to grow. Northern Health's dedicated surgical team have been working tirelessly, treating more than 94 per cent of elective surgery patients within recommended time and almost halving the waiting list for elective surgery to 1,307 patients.

The year began with the opening of our first Koori Maternity Birthing Room in February as Northern Health partnered with the local Aboriginal community to provide a culturally appropriate space for Koori women of the north to give birth.

In May, Northern Health welcomed the largest investment in health for Melbourne's northern community, with the Victorian Government announcement of \$162.7 million in funding for Northern Health's Tower Block development.

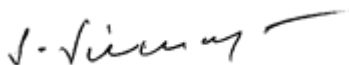
May also saw the tremendous efforts of our volunteers lauded at the Minister for Health's Volunteer Awards. Three of our Northern Health volunteers were finalists across three categories, with one of our volunteers winning the Award for 'Outstanding achievement by a volunteer supporting diversity.'

In June, Northern Health achieved Accreditation under all 15 National Standards, highlighting safe and high quality health care. July followed with a record 348 births at the Northern Hospital, Epping and in August the \$17.3 million upgrade to the Surgical Centre, Dialysis entry, Pharmacy and Radiology areas at Broadmeadows Hospital was opened.

Another highlight for the organisation was the Victorian Public Health Care Awards in October, where Northern Health was recognised for excellence in women's health, winning the Health Minister's award for the Private Practice Midwife Program. Northern Health was also a highly commended finalist in the category of whole-of-hospital model for responding to family violence.

Finishing the year on a high note, on Saturday 18 November the Northern Health Foundation hosted the 19th Annual Dinner event. With a record number in attendance, we are delighted to announce that over \$100,000 was raised for the Emergency Accommodation Relief Appeal. In 2018, the Northern Health Foundation will use these funds to build a home for families travelling long distances to visit loved ones receiving care in our Intensive Care Unit.

I take this opportunity to wish our patients and community a safe Christmas and a happy New Year.



**Siva Sivarajah**  
Chief Executive  
Northern Health

## Patients treated across Northern Health in 2017

Number of Births	<b>3,664</b>
Emergency Attendances	<b>92,382</b>
Outpatients Appointments	<b>214,399</b>
Inpatient Admissions	<b>93,505</b>
Ambulance Arrivals	<b>26,736</b>
Emergency Procedures	<b>6,564</b>

## What's happening at your local health service?

### Melbourne Victory spread Christmas cheer at Northern Health

Patients, staff and volunteers at Northern Health received a visit from Melbourne Victory FC players in the festive season. Not everyone is able to spend this time of year at home with their families; thanks to La Ionica and Melbourne Victory FC, Northern Health is providing holiday cheer to sick children in hospital. At Northern Health we are committed to providing outstanding health care to our community, visits like this provide a welcome boost during the holiday season for those spending time in hospital. They raised the spirits of not only patients, but staff members, volunteers, patient families and the broader community.



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## A special visit from Santa

Christmas arrived early for some special kids at the Northern Hospital Epping, with Santa taking time out of his busy schedule to spread festive cheer throughout the Children's Ward and Special Care Nursery. Some of our youngest patients had their first photo with the man in the red suit, while others added some items to their Christmas wish list. Northern Health is delighted to bring joy and Christmas spirit to our patients and staff, and would like to thank Pacific Epping for their ongoing support.

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## At the forefront of research and technology

The Vascular Unit at the Northern Hospital remains at the forefront of research and technology and exemplifies Northern Health's commitment to translating knowledge into improved services and practices. In an effort to offer the latest proven techniques and focus on a positive patient experience, The Northern Hospital Vascular Surgical Unit held an atherectomy workshop on Tuesday, 5 of December 2017. It was the second complex endovascular workshop held this year.

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## Winner of a brand new Audi!

We were thrilled to announce on Saturday, 18 November at the 2017 Northern Health Annual Dinner held at Casa D'Abruzzo the Maxxia & Freemasons Victoria Audi A1 Raffle Winner! The winner was our very own Northern Health staff member Charys Winter who is a lead IBD Clinical Nurse Consultant based at the Northern Hospital Epping. Charys was the lucky winner of 600 tickets sold since July 2018 where over \$60,000 was raised and then dollar matched by our proud partner Freemason's Victoria. In total an incredible \$120,000 was raised towards our Emergency Accommodation Appeal Campaign.



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