



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 2 November 2015

HUNTER SCOOPS TWO NSW HEALTH AWARDS

Hunter New England Health has been the recipient of a number of accolades at the NSW Health Awards tonight, including the Translational Research award for pioneering an acute stroke-imaging program.

The program, *Transforming Acute Stroke Care Locally and Globally*, has been adopted internationally and involves advanced CT imaging to profile patients, provide accurate prognoses and personalise acute stroke care.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner tonight congratulated the innovative efforts of the Hunter New England Local Health District, which was also joint winner of the Harry Collins Award for its *Preventing Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)* project.

“Patients are reaping the benefits of Hunter New England Health’s outstanding and internationally recognised achievements,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Led by John Hunter Hospital’s director of Acute Stroke Services, Professor Mark Parson, the translational research program has pioneered clinical application of advanced CT imaging in acute ischaemic stroke. It has delivered results across the District and is a transformative way to deliver health care.”

The District’s CAUTI model of care was recognised for significantly reducing the number of treatments of the common infection - from 8.4 per cent to 0.7 per cent.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter and Central Coast Scot MacDonald said CAUTI accounts for 40 per cent of all healthcare-associated infections and local staff led the charge to implement new protocols and educational resources to prevent it from occurring.

“I applaud Hunter New England Health’s efforts for developing inventive and modern approaches to health care,” Mr MacDonald said.

There were 48 finalists in 11 categories at tonight’s NSW Health Awards, with many showcasing their work at the NSW Health and Innovation Symposium earlier in the day.

Seven categories were won by regional Local Health Districts, including Far West, Hunter New England, Illawarra Shoalhaven, Mid North Coast and Northern NSW.

"Tonight's awards recognise the excellence of our nurses, clinicians, allied health professionals, support staff, researchers and volunteers, who strive on a daily basis to develop and implement innovative models of care with the aim of improving outcomes for patients across NSW," Mrs Skinner said.