

Executive Officer's Report



Welcome to our August edition of Child and Adolescent Health Care E-news. We've had a busy time since our last publication in December (we've had a wedding and two babies!!) and I am very excited to update you on the developments of our recent projects. Read the [AWCH Annual Report](#) for a detailed account of our activities and projects.

Late News.....Late News.....Late News

Children and adults sharing hospital wards

AWCH has recently become aware that Sutherland Hospital (Sydney, NSW) has been caring for adults and children on the same hospital ward.

AWCH believes strongly that the needs of children in hospital are provided for most effectively when children are cared for in children's wards, without adult patients being present, and by specially trained staff. For these reasons, AWCH recommends that children be hospitalised in paediatric wards, separate from adult patients, and cared for by appropriately qualified staff. AWCH takes the view that children should not be accommodated with adults.

If you would like to support AWCH in raising concerns about this issue, you can comment on The St George and Sutherland Leader's website at <http://stgeorge.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/business/bed-shortage-fears-children-adults-to-share-a-ward/802582.aspx>

Lismore Base Hospital reduces play program hours

Recently AWCH has become aware that Lismore Base Hospital has reduced play program hours. www.northernstar.com.au/storydisplay.cfm?storyid=3779821

AWCH is very concerned that the reduction in the provision of play services for children at Lismore Base Hospital has been undertaken without due consideration to the potential adverse outcomes for children, young people and their families.

AWCH has written and urged the hospital to consider seriously the detrimental effects and consequences that the reduction in play hours provided will have on the healthcare that Lismore Base Hospital provides to children and young people.

AWCH has also written a letter of concern to the Editor of the Northern Star newspaper. The letter was published in the newspaper's [Your Say](#) section on 13 August 2008.

AWCH Library

The AWCH Librarian position has been funded generously by the Children's Hospital at Westmead for 18 months. This funding ceased on 30 June and AWCH has committed funds in the 08-09 budget to fund this position until 31 December 2008.

During this time Jillian Rattray (AWCH librarian) has been keeping the online collection updated as well as assisting with enquiries. The collection can be accessed at:

- Journal articles www.chw.edu.au/parents/journal_articles/
- Book catalogue <http://library.wsahs.nsw.gov.au/>
- Audio-visual for loan www.awch.org.au/Library_list.htm

If you know of an organisation who might be interested in funding the AWCH Library and the librarian's position, please do not hesitate to contact AWCH to discuss what this involves.

Update on AWCH members and supporters

Congratulations to Kellie and Michael on the birth of their baby son, Curtis. Curtis looks like his sister, Sophie who is eager to spoil her baby brother.

We'd also like to congratulate Sarah and John on the birth of baby George Llewellyn. He will be a great playmate for Thomas who seems very pleased to have a baby brother to care for.

Best wishes to Gail and David who married in December 2007. We wish them both lots of happiness.

AWCH wishes June all the best in her new home and that Ted recovers well from his recent illness.

Congratulations to Rowena on her appointment as Communications Officer for AWCH.

Thank you to AWCH members and supporters

Thank you to Michelle, Peggy and Rowena for all their help with the Emergency Department Waiting Room Project; to Jenny and Peggy for 240 hours of volunteering at national office and last but not least, Tony for his generosity in assisting us with our printing projects.

A special thank you to all the board members for their continued support of the Association and in particular to Professor David Bennett for his outstanding leadership.

Many thanks to all the members and supporters who have contributed to enquiries to AWCH by making comment, feedback and providing valuable information over the last year. It really does make a difference!

AWCH Membership

Now we are into a new financial year, I would like to remind everyone that AWCH Membership is now due. Please visit our website [membership page](#) for more details or you can print a copy of the membership form [here](#). Remember you get reduced rates at this year's conference - more details at www.kidsconference.org.au - and don't forget to tell us if you introduce another person to membership during 2008-09.

Thank you for your support during the past year and I encourage you to continue your involvement with AWCH. Together, as a group of parents, young people, community members and professionals, we can be strong advocates for child and adolescent health and increase awareness of the changes needed in the health system.

Anne Cutler
Executive Officer
AWCH