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St John of God Berwick Hospital Pastoral Care Team Wins Best of Care Award

St John of God Berwick Hospital's pastoral care team has been named the winner of the national 2020 Best of Care Team Award from Spiritual Care Australia (SCA), Australia's peak spiritual care body.

The team received the award for their immense efforts in transitioning from a small 75 bed facility to a brand new 202-bed state of the art hospital in 2018, all while maintaining strong support for both patients and caregivers.

Initially small but effective, the pastoral care team embraced the level of change management required in order to expand the service into the new hospital. This included incorporating new team members and initiating solutions to service the expanded clinical services within the new and much larger facility. The workforce expanded rapidly and many of the new caregivers were unfamiliar with pastoral care, having never worked with an integrated service of its type in previous workplaces. Pastoral care quickly embedded themselves as a vital and valued part of the hospital's care offering.

Rhonda O'Connor, Director of Mission Integration at St John of God South East Melbourne Hospitals, is incredibly proud of how the pastoral care team was able to flourish and become an integral part of hospital's clinical care in a period of immense change.

"The team did an immense job of embracing change during our transition to our new hospital site. Not only were they integral in maintaining our strong patient culture during the move, but they also became an integral part of clinical patient care as well, ensuring that we are always caring for our patients mental and spiritual needs," she explained.

"I'm beyond excited and immensely proud of what our pastoral care team has achieved." The award was announced at SCA's Annual General Meeting on August 3rd 2020, which took place remotely this year.

For further information:

Lisa Carman- Marketing Manager
8784 5008 lisa.carman@sjog.org.au