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25 years of care at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital has celebrated its 25th anniversary, hosting a week of festivities including a research forum showcasing innovative projects and staff long service awards.

The hospital officially opened in 1997, bringing together Bankstown and Lidcombe Hospitals in a \$63 million redevelopment.

The anniversary was marked with a reunion event which included past staff and was considered a highlight of the celebrations. Fifth-year medical student Blaise Di Mento attended with his grandmother and former Bankstown nurse Laura Gorzanelli whose career at the hospital spanned three decades.

“I’ve been on placement at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital several times now, most recently in the Emergency Department, which is where my grandmother started her general nurse training in 1966 and worked until 1999. It’s been great getting to develop my skills at my local hospital, which has played such a big part in my family’s history,” Mr Di Mento said.

Mr Di Mento’s 92-year-old great-grandmother Aldina Gorzanelli has been a Bankstown resident since 1961, and is a committed advocate for the hospital, attending the opening of Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital 25 years ago.

“I’ve heard so many stories from my grandmother about her time as a nurse here, and it means a lot to me that I get to carry on the legacy her and my great-grandmother started.”

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital General Manager Peter Rophail said the week of festivities was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the hospital’s rich history.

“Our hospital plays an important role caring for our community and it’s wonderful hearing stories like that of the Di Mento and Gorzanelli family, where three generations have supported the one hospital in various ways,” Mr Rophail said.

“I look forward to the hospital’s proud tradition of outstanding care continuing well into the future.”

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital provides tertiary level services in surgery, endoscopy and aged care.

On average, the hospital sees 53,000 emergency department presentations, performs 13,000 surgical procedures, delivers 1,700 babies and provides 150,000 outpatient appointments every year.

The NSW Government committed \$1.3 billion towards the new Bankstown Hospital to build a new purpose-built facility that will provide contemporary health care delivery for the growing communities of South-Western Sydney.

The new Bankstown Hospital will complement billions of dollars of investments in new health facilities for western Sydney communities, including redevelopments at Liverpool and Campbelltown.

The NSW Government is currently considering site recommendations for the new Bankstown Hospital, and an announcement will be made in due course.

Since 2011, the government has delivered more than 180 hospitals and health facilities across NSW, with more than 130 projects currently underway.