

# Media Release

Date: 6 November 2018

## Three from three at the NSW Health Awards

Three teams from Hunter New England Health are celebrating after taking out their categories at the 2018 NSW Health Awards last night.

**High-flow Oxygen for Bronchiolitis, Healthy Food in Childcare - An Online Solution and Improving Specialist Outpatient Service Waitlists** were recognised at the ceremony in Sydney.

HNE Health Chief Executive Michael DiRienzo said the District has much to be proud of, with all three projects nominated going on to win.

“The programs are great examples of how local innovation is leading to outstanding patient care across NSW and Australia.”

“Innovation in healthcare is vital in improving patient care and changing lives. I am very proud of our teams that are leading the way in the District.

“The Awards are an important opportunity to thank our staff for their ongoing commitment to improving health services.” Mr Di Rienzo said.

Minister for Health Brad Hazzard has joined Mr DiRienzo in congratulating the winners and finalists in the awards.

“The 2018 Awards recognise the outstanding innovations in the state’s health system.

“The winning projects demonstrate the depth of talent and creativity that runs through NSW Health.”

“It is exciting to see the innovation taking place across such a broad spectrum of disciplines.” Mr Hazzard said.

In 2018-19 the NSW Government is investing a record \$22.9 billion in health, representing a \$1.1 billion increase on the 2017-18 Budget. This includes \$19.2 billion towards improving services in hospitals in NSW this year.

This year, there were 33 finalists from 14 state-wide health entities competing for 11 award categories.

- **High-flow Oxygen for Bronchiolitis (Health Research and Innovation category)** found high-flow oxygen supported more infants for longer compared to the standard low-flow oxygen therapy, and resulted in fewer intensive care admissions.
- **Healthy food in childcare – an online solution (Keeping People Healthy category)** has led to healthier food options in childcare services, through the provision of an online menu-planning program. The free program has been rolled out nationally, with more than 1800 services accessing it.

- **Improving Specialist Outpatient Service Waitlists (Supporting our People category)** was successful in reducing the number of patients waiting for an outpatient appointment by almost 70 per cent and enabled some patients to be seen 50 per cent faster.

Full descriptions of the projects in each category are available at:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/innovation/2018awards/Pages/finalists.aspx>