

**Date:** 5 May 2020

## Healing Hearts: a celebration of our nurses and midwives

Health services around NSW are coming together to honour the work of our nurses and midwives.

With International Day of the Midwife on 5 May and International Nurses Day on 12 May, this is the perfect time to celebrate.

“Hunter New England Health is grateful for every midwife and nurse working across our District – all 9,160 of them - and I thank each and every one for the wonderful, truly personal work they do each day caring for our patients and their families,” said Ms Elizabeth Grist, Executive Director Clinical Services Nursing and Midwifery.

“Our nurses and midwives represent more than half our entire workforce, so I am pleased days like this recognise the enormous contribution they each make within our communities.”

There are more than 50,000 Nurses and Midwives in NSW Health’s hospitals and services and they provide safe, quality care for the people of NSW. They are the ‘Healing Hearts’ of the NSW Health service.

To support this important initiative, blue and purple hearts, representing the colours of nursing and midwifery, will pop up in hospital/s and health services throughout Hunter New England Local Health District, in the form of stickers, posters and postcards.

Staff and the community are encouraged to post pictures of themselves wearing the stickers on social media, using the hashtags #everyperson and #exceptionalcare.

The Healing Heart postcards provide a way to recognise and thank nurses and midwives for their unique contribution.

In the 2019/20 Budget the NSW Government committed \$2.8 billion to recruit a total of 8,300 frontline health staff over the next four years, including 5,000 nurses and midwives.

For more information, go to NSW Health’s dedicated Nursing and Midwifery page:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/nursing/Pages/default.aspx>

To follow the campaign online, search for the hashtags #everyperson and #exceptionalcare.