

Media Release

Governor recognises outstanding contributions of hospital volunteers

Friday, 13 May 2016

The contributions of more than 100 volunteers to the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF) and King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) were celebrated as part of a recent event to mark National Volunteers Week.

Patron of the Women and Infants Research Foundation, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO, Governor of Western Australia, attended as the guest of honour and said the event was a fantastic opportunity to recognise an exceptional group of people.

“Volunteers at KEMH perform countless tasks that add that extra special touch to a mother and newborn’s journey. They form an invaluable resource, making a significant contribution to the ability of the Hospital to deliver the highest level of service,” Mrs Sanderson AO said.

“This annual event is all about recognising the contribution and achievements of this amazing group of volunteers.”

Executive Director of the Women and Infants Research Foundation, Professor John Newnham said during the past year, WIRF had grown its volunteer base from 95 to 113.

“This team of volunteers contributes over 10,000 hours each year which is valued at a staggering \$465 000,” Prof Newnham said.

“The work of our volunteers extends to many of the Hospital’s departments. By engaging in patient and client activities, volunteers are a vital link between the clinical and nursing services, and together form a holistic approach to the quality health care that people need.”

As part of the event, volunteers celebrating 10 and 15 year long service awards were recognised. 10 year recipients were: Beattie Raamel and Carol King. 15 year recipients were: Yvonne Neurauter, Kay Lodge, Suzanne Draper, Pam Imms, Helen Robertson, Helen Roatch and Maggie Cooper.

Volunteers at WIRF and KEMH provide vital services across a range of departments and services including: the hospital’s café and gift shop, op shop, perinatal loss service, social work, physiotherapy, the centenary clinic and nurseries.

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Background: The Women and Infant’s Research Foundation is Australia’s leading independent research institution dedicated to improving women, infants and reproductive health. We have a proud 40-year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement centred on the eradication of disease and the reduction of illness in women and babies of all ages.