



9 March 2018

## **Celebrating the Mission of St John of God Health Care**

**Every year on 8 March 2018, St John of God Health Care celebrates their Patron's Feast Day by reflecting on how they continue his healing Mission in their hospitals, home nursing, community outreach and disability services.**

This year's theme focused on walking in the footsteps of John and the image of sandals conveyed the reality of John's work in Granada. St John of God walked the streets of Granada in the 1500s, carrying out his Mission to offer compassionate care to the sick and impoverished and collect alms and supplies for them.

Martin Loney, a member of the Mission Leadership team at St John of God Health Care said the well-worn sandals represented St John of God's work as well as the care provided today by our caregivers.

"Taking the time to celebrate St John of God Day provides a great opportunity to reflect on the important role we play as we walk in John's footsteps caring for those in need in our community," Mr Loney said.

"Our caregivers go out of their way to continue spreading St John of God's vision ensuring that our patients, clients, visitors and caregivers are treated with hospitality and respect."

Celebrations in each of the organisation's 23 facilities included Mass, caregiver recognition award ceremonies, length of service awards, feasts of paella and Spanish churros, and in Berwick, Victoria the official opening and blessing of the organisation's newest hospital, St John of God Berwick Hospital.

Also announced on St John of God Day is the annual Jennifer Stratton Scholarship winner – an award acknowledging Jennifer's years of dedicated service as the organisation's first lay Mission leader and celebrates one caregiver's embodiment of the organisation's Vision, Mission and Values in fulfilling their role.

This year's winner, Sandy Tucker from St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital, was

# MEDIA RELEASE



**ST JOHN OF GOD**  
Health Care

recognised for the genuine care, compassion and respect she demonstrates to everyone who walks through the hospital's doors in her role as admission officer.

Sandy's manager Tracey Chapman congratulated her on earning the scholarship and said Sandy's welcoming smile was a genuine reflection of her caring and compassionate nature, which she extends to all.

"First impressions are vitally important for any organisation and Sandy is an absolute asset to our hospital," she said.

"Beyond the hospital Sandy also demonstrates the St John of God Health Care Values of Hospitality, Compassion and Respect in her personal life, having volunteered with Lifeline, Charity Link and as an unofficial carer for the last 40 years for a man with intellectual disabilities."

As the recipient of the Jennifer Stratton Scholarship, Sandy will join the September 2018 St John of God Health Care Pilgrimage to walk the sacred paths of our heritage and history.

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## **IMAGES**

- Midland – St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals' Caregiver of the Year Binsu Varghese
- Geraldton – St John of God Day mass at St John of God Geraldton Hospital
- Frankston – St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital celebrated St John of God Day with mass and a paella feast
- Berwick – The new St John of God Berwick Hospital was blessed and officially opened on St John of God Day
- Bendigo – St John of God Bendigo Hospital CEO Trevor Mattheson awarded their Caregiver of the Year to Neil Williams, who accepted the award alongside Volunteer Manager James Breene
- Mt Lawley – The 2018 Jennifer Stratton Scholarship winner Sandy Tucker from St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital

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## **About SJGHC**

St John of God Health Care (SJGHC) is a leading provider of high quality health care services in Australia.

Established in Western Australia in 1895, we are not-for-profit private health care group and a ministry of the Catholic Church.

We employ more than 13,000 staff across Australia, New Zealand and the wider Asia Pacific region.

We operate 23 facilities comprising 3,078 hospital beds in Australia and New Zealand, as well as home nursing, disability services and social outreach programs.