

# Fremantle Hospital and Health Service



## Hand Hygiene launch

Fremantle Hospital hosted a visit by WA Health Minister Dr Kim Hames who launched a new national program that will further boost WA hospital infection control measures.

The National Hand Hygiene Initiative aims to standardise hand hygiene practices for healthcare workers, and to introduce a national system for monitoring rates of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). Improvements in healthcare worker hand hygiene are recognised globally as the most effective means of reducing Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI).

Dr Hames, who was welcomed by A/Executive Director of Fremantle Hospital and Health Service (FHHS), Dr Shirley Bowen, said that WA was already a recognised world leader in the control of HAI.

“WA has the lowest rates of hospital-acquired MRSA in Australia, and our infection control practices are among the best in the world,” Dr Hames said. (continued next page.)

ABOVE: Moira Fredericks, Alana Paparone, Amber Patterson, Dr Kim Hames, Dr Timothy Chong, Jacqueline Barra.



ABOVE: Dr Shirley Bowen, A/ Executive Director FHHS at the Hand Hygiene launch.

LEFT: Dr David McGeachie, Wendy Calnan, Karali Williams, Dr Kim Hames and Rob Fletcher.



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ABOVE: Guests at Fremantle Hospital's Hand Hygiene launch.



LEFT: Professor David Fletcher (Clinical Director, Surgical Services at Fremantle Hospital), Professor Teik E Oh (Director of Medical Services, Mercy Hospital), Dr Lachlan Henderson (Group Director, Medical Services, SJOG Healthcare.)



BELOW LEFT: Rosie Lee (Coordinator Infection Prevention and Control Department, Royal Perth Hospital), Gabby Irvine (Infection Control Clinical Nurse Consultant, PMH), Helen Cadwallader (Infection Control Clinical Nurse Consultant, SCGH), Rebecca McCann (Program Manager, Department of Health.)

"For WA, the initiative is an opportunity to further enhance our infection control measures and be part of national and international efforts to tackle healthcare associated infections."

The Minister said the National Hand Hygiene Initiative was supported by all Australian Health Ministers and would encourage hospitals nationwide to introduce similar measures to WA.

Dr Hames said that the average case of hospital-acquired MRSA blood stream infection cost more than \$22,000 to treat and required 10 additional bed days.

"By preventing a single case we can avoid the burden on the patient and conserve valuable healthcare resources. I am committed to making WA hospitals infection control performance even better to ensure we remain a world leader," Dr Hames said.



Dr Lewis Marshall, Dr Kim Hames, Dr Shirley Bowen and Neville Collard.