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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney announced as winners of the first ever ACHS Group Medal**

As part of its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary celebrations in 2014, the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) has announced a leading Sydney hospital as the winner of its first ever ACHS Group Medal.

St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney (SVPH) was announced as the winners of the new award at The Quantum Leap conference held in Sydney.

In her congratulations to SVPH as the ACHS Gold Medal Winners, ACHS President Adj Associate Professor Karen Linegar said that the hospital had exemplified a strong group collaboration throughout the hospital over a long period of time which had been clearly demonstrated in their submission.

"I am delighted to announce SVPH as the winner as their entry identified a strong, collective contribution by the hospital to improving quality and safety in Australian health services," she said.

"The ACHS Board introduced this award in 2014 as an extension of the existing ACHS Medal (now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year), to formally recognise the importance of group work in health care.

"Group or team work is a critical aspect of successfully negotiating many of the demands of a contemporary workplace, and collaborating with others and has become a major driver of some of the great health outcomes in Australia over the last 40 years.

"This medal acknowledges the contemporary excellence in quality and performance that is achieved through group efforts, and SVPH's submission provided strong evidence of this.

"Congratulations to St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney and thank you to all our entries from around Australia, but particularly the other three finalists: Healthscope (VIC), Tasmanian Health Org – North West (TAS) and North Shore Private Hospital, Sydney (NSW). Each has made an important contribution to improving safety and quality in healthcare in Australia." Adj Assoc Prof Linegar said.

Any of the following achievements were required to be demonstrated:

- Substantial achievement on research into quality and safety of health systems;
- Distinguished leadership in quality practices sustained;
- Outstanding achievement in maintaining a continuous quality improvement focus in health care delivery systems; or
- Outstanding achievement in the promotion of quality in health care.

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