

Mrs Joy Stephen

President of the RNSH Ladies Committee (*Pink Ladies*), Sydney

Mrs Joy Stephen, Sydney, NSW, is President of the Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) Ladies Committee (Pink Ladies). Over the past seven years as president, Joy has successfully managed a 130-strong group of dedicated volunteers who raise money for vital hospital equipment not funded by the Government.

In 2013, the Pink Ladies raised over \$375,000 for RNSH, mainly from sales of handmade crafts and toys at the Pink Ladies souvenir and gift shop. Since its inception in 1957, the Pink Ladies have been integral to RNSH, providing a range of services to better accommodate patients, staff, and members of the community.

The Pink Ladies was formed in 1957 by a group of ladies who ran a maternity shop on Pacific Highway near the hospital, later relocating to the RNSH foyer.

Joy has been volunteering with the Pink Ladies for more than eight years, and has represented the committee as its President for the past seven years. Most of the volunteers at present are aged between 50-to-60.

The Pink Ladies operate six main services for the RNSH, including four trolley services providing basic toiletries, newspapers and food and drink items to hospital patients and staff, the Pink Lady Library, and the Pink Ladies Souvenir and Gift Shop. The majority of their proceeds for the hospital come from the gift shop, raffles and functions, where they collect donations and sell dressing gowns, soft and wooden toys, and some lovely handmade arts and crafts provided by the Pink Lady volunteers.

In 2013, the Pink Ladies raised \$375,000 through the range of services they provide for medical equipment at the hospital not provided by the Government.

“We have recently relocated into the new building, however we have been waiting for signage on our shop and on the main noticeboard for more than eight weeks. It seems promises are being made but are not being adhered to,” said Mrs Stephen.

“Most of the donations and proceeds for the hospital come from the sale of handmade crafts, knitted items, and soft toys, and without the ability for people to find us, we won’t be making half as much.

“The Government’s plan to sell-off parts of the hospital’s land is another broken promise and one which will greatly compromise patient care and services for future generations,” Mrs Stephen said.

“The State Government needs to pay immediate attention to the voices of patients, staff and community members to ensure the life-saving work at RNSH continues for future generations.”

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L-R: Mrs June Irwin, Vice President with Mrs Joy Stephen, President, RNSH Pink Ladies, outside their gift shop