

21 August 2018

Party time for kids at Wollongong Hospital

The Wollongong Hospital Children's Ward and Illawarra Hospital School have been transformed into a magic kingdom, for the inaugural Children's Party Week August 20-24.

Kids and Families Co-Director, Dr Susie Piper, said the event is a fantastic opportunity for children and their families to interact with staff in a fun and engaging way.

"A lot of things go on in hospital that may make children and their families feel anxious," Dr Piper said.

"Party week allows patients to see the hospital in a non-clinical way and engage with our staff to help create new and fun memories about being in the hospital," Dr Piper said.

"These young patients and their families are so resilient, and we are full of admiration of them. We hope to give them something back and remind them they have the support of the whole community as they manage their illness," Dr Piper said.

Illawarra Hospital School Principal, Kim Bell, said the children will be in store for a wide variety of experiences.

"This week we have transformed the Children's Ward into a 'magic kingdom' where people will be invited to dress up and be part of a range of fun-filled events.

"The ward and school room have been decorated and there is also a range of special community guests invited to be part of the action," Ms Bell said.

"Party week is a fantastic initiative which is the result of the hard work of dedicated staff from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and the NSW Department of Education as well as several other community partners and local businesses who have volunteered their time and resources to give these children and their families respite from their illness," Ms Bell added.

Children's party week is hosted by the Wollongong Hospital Children's Ward and the Illawarra Hospital School to enhance the hospital experience of young patients and their families.

Media opportunity:

A variety of media opportunities are available this week, including visits by the Starlight Children's Foundation (Tuesday), Life Education's Healthy Harold (Wednesday), music by A Sound Life (Wednesday), PAWS Pets Therapy (Thursday), St George Illawarra Dragons (Thursday), culminating in the main event on Friday, where i98FM Illawarra Convoy, the Science Space, and representatives from local emergency services and Criniti's restaurant will be on site to celebrate with the kids.

Please contact the media team on 0422 003 764 to arrange a photo opportunity.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District

Media contact: Media and Corporate Communications Unit

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