



SYDNEY  
ADVENTIST  
HOSPITAL



Adventist 'Christianity in Action'.  
What does it mean?



## WHO ARE ADVENTISTS?

Formally organised in 1863, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a mainstream Christian church with approximately 25 million members in 203 countries. It grew out of a worldwide religious revival that started in the 1840's with Bible interpretations that prophesied the imminent second coming of Christ. United under the leadership of James and Ellen White and named 'Adventists', believers formed what is the modern day Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## WHAT IS SYDNEY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL?

As an outreach of the Adventist Church, Sydney Adventist Hospital was opened at Wahroonga on 1st January 1903. It was known as Sydney Sanitarium - a place where people learn to stay well. It is still affectionately known as 'The San'.

Today Sydney Adventist Hospital, (SAH), is the largest single campus private hospital in NSW with the largest and busiest private Emergency Care facility in the state. With over 500 beds, the hospital treats more than 45,000 inpatients and 155,000 outpatients annually including more than 2,000 babies delivered, and over 20,000 cases presenting to Emergency Care.

Our reputation in the community has been built on the continuous provision of high quality, excellent medical services, and most importantly, on the 'unique' commitment and care shown by our staff along with our wholistic approach to healthcare which is underpinned by our Adventist beliefs.

We are one of 167 Adventist hospitals and 407 clinics and dispensaries around the world.



## WHAT MOTIVATES ADVENTISTS AT SAH?

As Christians, we believe the best way to show our love and respect for God is to be the best that we can –physically, mentally and spiritually. We believe that a wholesome lifestyle contributes to good physical health, which enhances a person’s mental and spiritual potential.

We believe in abstinence from alcohol, tobacco and harmful drugs and the need to maintain a balance in work, leisure, rest, exercise and diet. We believe in providing facilities for treatment, healing and health where people can learn how to prevent disease through lifestyle changes such as nutrition and exercise. We believe in valuing every person as a unique creation of God.

## HOW ARE ADVENTIST BELIEFS APPLIED AT SAH?

By providing the finest healthcare in the spirit of Christian compassion and following the SAH mission:



SYDNEY  
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Our Mission is:

### CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

Caring for the body, mind and spirit of our patients, colleagues, community and ourselves.

We will remain our community's favourite private hospital.

Our Mission statement incorporates principles of caring that apply to all persons regardless of their religious beliefs.

#### **“Caring for the Body, Mind & Spirit of our Patients”**

We provide a comprehensive range of acute care services to meet the community's health needs. Providing quality, up to date services, technology and facilities is a key priority.

We also complement acute services with other services that meet patients wholistic needs. Examples include: Cancer Support Centre and Jacaranda Lodge, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Nutrition consultations, Wound Clinic, Fox Valley Medical & Dental Centre, and on-site services for health assessments and weight and stress management clinics. Patients also benefit through the

hospital's chaplaincy service – with the clinical pastoral education program supporting patient's spiritual needs.

The hospital actively promotes good health and nutrition for patients through a predominantly vegetarian menu.

### **“Caring for the Body, Mind & Spirit of our Colleagues”**

We care for our doctors and other health professionals through dedicated medical liaison personnel, GP education programs, publications, consultation, involvement and other activities.

### **“Caring for the Body, Mind & Spirit of our Community”**

We actively promote good health and highlight healthy living to our local community through free, public, health information forums, health brochures and free health checks during shopping centre promotions.

Partnering with other organisations such as Adventist Development Relief Agency and Rotary International, SAH's ongoing Healthcare Outreach program enables staff to share their skills and expertise caring for people in medical need in overseas communities.



## **“Caring for the Body, Mind & Spirit of Ourselves”**

The key to our future and achieving our Mission is our most precious resource - our staff & volunteers.

The hospital is committed to caring for the physical, mental and spiritual needs of our more than 2000 staff and 400 volunteers. We:

- organise preventative Health and Employee Support Programs like the San Staff Walk, internal counselling support and on-site child care
- maintain a safe workplace through focus on Risk Management and OH&S
- encourage a healthy work / life balance
- ensure a strong emphasis on Learning & Development initiatives like our Registered Training Organisation program, enhanced New Graduate Program and Professional Recognition Program for nursing staff
- have an Innovation Panel and quality improvement program to encourage and develop new ideas and improvements
- offer a Rewards & Recognition program – encouraging excellence in service
- encourage our staff to be Mission & Customer Service focused through appropriate training, education, communication and tools.

## WHAT ARE THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF ADVENTISTS?

Seventh-day Adventists share common beliefs with most other Christians, including belief in the Trinity and salvation through Jesus Christ. We accept the whole Bible as the revelation of God, and believe the Ten Commandments express God's love, will and purposes. Our beliefs include:

### **The Bible**

We believe the Bible is the only basis for Christian doctrine. The Bible is God's guide for life.

### **The Trinity**

There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons.

### **God the Creator**

God created all things in six days. He rested on the seventh day of Creation Week, celebrating and enjoying what He had made. Man and woman were the crowning work of God's creation.

### **Paradise Lost**

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the trust God bestowed on them was broken and the certainty of immortality was lost.

### **The Ten Commandments**

In The Ten Commandments, God explains very clearly and simply what our relationship to him and others should be.

## **Jesus Christ**

God became human in Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He experienced temptations as a human being, but lived his life to demonstrate the righteousness and love of God. At age 30, He began His public ministry of teaching and healing. Three and one-half years later, He was crucified and died on the cross. His body was placed in a tomb on Friday, where it lay over the Sabbath. On the first day of the week he arose and later ascended to heaven thus giving to people of all ages the hope of eternal life.

## **The Church**

We believe that the Christian Church is comprised of all people who believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Seventh-day Adventists are a community of believers. We join together in local congregations for worship, fellowship, instruction in the Word and celebration of the Lord's Supper. The Seventh-day Adventist Church believes in undertaking humanitarian service and communicating to people the message of hope contained in God's word - The Bible.

## **Sabbath**

Just as God rested on the 7th day after Creation, Seventh-day Adventists observe Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday to celebrate and give thanks for all that God has created.



At Sydney Adventist Hospital, the needs of our patients continue to be met during the Sabbath hours. All essential medical care and services are provided.

### **Baptism**

Baptism is a public celebration of our faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and a declaration of our desire to live the Christian life. In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, baptism is by immersion in water.

### **The Lord's Supper**

Participation in the Lord's Supper (Communion) is an expression of faith in Jesus Christ. In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, communion is open to all believing Christians.

## **Lifestyle**

Christian behaviour arises out of gratitude for what God has done for us and our desire to honour Him. Among other things, we believe we have a responsibility to care for our bodies with adequate exercise, rest and a healthful diet. Many Seventh-day Adventists are vegetarians. We abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures as well as alcoholic beverages, tobacco and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics.

## **Second Coming**

Adventists believe that Jesus will come again to deliver His people and to restore all things. It will be a literal and personal return.

## **New Earth**

God is preparing a perfect world where He will live with His people forever. This eternal home will be a perfect environment free of pain and death. It will be a real place where people fully experience everlasting life, love and joy in fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



## WHAT DOES THE SAH LOGO MEAN?

The Sydney Adventist Hospital logo represents our heritage and future.

The logo is in the form of a cross, made up of three stylised symbols:

- The serpent on the pole – symbolising healing
- The book – representing the story of God’s care recorded in the Bible
- The flame – representing the Spirit of God

Taken together, these symbols represent the activity of God in the world. His generosity toward vulnerable people restores them to physical and mental health, and places them in a community of compassionate people, who support each other. God’s example inspires us to reach out to others in the same way.

## WHAT ARE SAH’S FUTURE PLANS?

It is our aim to live our Mission of ‘Christianity in Action’ through all that we do, and to remain our community’s favourite private hospital.

We will endeavor to remain a leader in healthcare, maintain our financial viability, and continue our focus on wholistic care.

Sydney Adventist Hospital will continue to support the Adventist Mission through health, healing and touching peoples lives through our services and our people.

Seventh-day Adventist hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities extend their circle of care and friendship to all without regard to religious affiliation. Doctors, employees, volunteers, board members and others who help fulfil the mission of Adventist healthcare represent diverse religions and cultures.

Those interested in learning more about Seventh-day Adventists are welcome into our fellowship. We are happy to answer questions regarding our beliefs and lifestyle.

**Contact our Chaplains on 02 9487 9289 or  
[chaplains@sah.org.au](mailto:chaplains@sah.org.au)**

**For further information on the Adventist Church visit  
[www.adventist.org.au](http://www.adventist.org.au)**



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