

Christianity in Action

What does it mean?



SYDNEY
ADVENTIST
HOSPITAL

WHO ARE ADVENTISTS?

Formally organised in 1863, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a mainstream Christian church with over 19 million members worldwide.

It grew out of a 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?

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

Today Sydney Adventist Hospital (SAH) is the largest private hospital in NSW with the largest and busiest private Emergency Care facility in the state. With over 750 beds, the hospital treats more than 58,000 inpatients and 129,000 outpatients annually including approx 2,000 babies delivered, and 18,000 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 holistic approach to healthcare which is underpinned by our Adventist beliefs.

We are one of 175 Adventist hospitals and over 380 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 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. We believe in abstinence from alcohol, tobacco and harmful drugs and the need to maintain a balance in work, leisure, rest, exercise and diet.

HOW ARE ADVENTIST BELIEFS APPLIED AT SAH?

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



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’ holistic 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. Patients also benefit from the hospital’s spiritual care service – with the chaplains and trained volunteers supporting patients’ 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 education forums and health information.

Working with other organisations, the Open Heart International program (initiated by SAH) enables staff to share their skills and expertise caring for people in medical need in overseas communities.

SAH continues to be actively involved with various community groups, in particular the Novus Foundation. The Novus Foundation is a collaboration of the Rotary Club of Wahroonga, Sydney Adventist Hospital and McCarroll's Automotive, fundraising for projects investing in youth.



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

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

The hospital is committed to caring for the physical, mental and spiritual needs of our more than 2300 staff and 470 volunteers. We:

- Organise preventative health and employee support programs, 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, and e-learning
- Have a quality improvement program to encourage and develop new ideas and improvements
- Offer a rewards and recognition program – encouraging excellence in service
- Encourage our staff to be mission and 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 remain our highest priority and continue to be met during the Sabbath hours. All essential medical care and services are provided. We also offer free parking to patients and visitors from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday.



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.

OUR AIM

It is our aim to live our Mission of ‘Christianity in Action’ through all that we do.

We will endeavor to remain a leader in healthcare, maintain our financial viability, and continue our focus on holistic 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 in our Spiritual Care Services
Department on 02 9487 9289 or spiritualcare@sah.org.au**

**For further information on the Adventist Church visit
www.adventist.org.au**

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