Nurses are the foundation of excellent clinical care in the high-pressure, high-stakes environment of Emergency Medicine.

When nurses have had advanced training in resuscitation they are better able to care and advocate for their patients. When nurses have been able to develop skills in research and innovation they are able to provide adaptable and holistic care for their patients in the most trying of environments. The more we invest in our nurses, the better the outcomes for our patients.

Dr Alex Buttfield has worked at Campbelltown and Camden Emergency Departments (ED) for nearly nine years. He qualified as a consultant in Emergency Medicine in early 2015 and is now Deputy Director, Campbelltown and Camden Emergency Department.

He has worked alongside many outstanding nurses whom, in his words: ‘have saved countless lives through their professionalism and assertive advocacy for their patients.’ However the pressures of the pandemic and large population growth have taken its toll on many outstanding members of the hospital’s healthcare system.

A little over a year ago, his father, Andy, suggested he establish a community engagement and fundraising effort to foster the best possible care through investment in nurse training, now dubbed: “The Nurse Development Program”. Andy was a charter member of Sydney Cove Rotary Club in 1988. In 2007 he was presented with the prestigious “Service Above Self” award by the then President of Rotary International, Bill Boyd, for his many years as a volunteer supporting a very remote Indigenous Community in East Arnhem Land.

It is with this history of involvement with Rotary and its limitless capacity for community work that Alex wants to partner with Macarthur Rotary Clubs to expand The Nurse Development Program.

The program has three objectives:

1. Establish advanced nurse training in Advanced Paediatric Life Support and other essential nurse specialist training programs.
2. Develop a local research program in the ED.
	1. Utilising the skillset of their Head of Research, Dr Nick Moore, who trained at the Ingham Institute, so as to develop some of their3 outstanding nurses in research and innovation.
	2. Through these objectives, establish a successful track record to enable collaboration with the Macarthur Research Institute when it opens in 2 years time.
3. Support the wellbeing of all ED staff by providing a successful training and work environment for their nurses.

How can you help?

You can donate directly to our ED by using the link below:

<https://www.swslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/donate/index.cfm>

Under the heading “Donation Designation”, go to “Facility” and select “Campbelltown and Camden hospital” and under “Please put this donation towards” select “Emergency – Special Purpose.” Your donation will then go directly into the Trust Fund dedicated to ED’s Nurse Development Program

Alex found it a great privilege to address our local Rotary Clubs about this initiative.

Can we partner together to make a difference to the lives of the patients of our rapidly growing community?