An insight into life on the ward

Students from local high schools attended the recent Healthwise Expo at Hawkesbury Hospital.

by Amanda Perry

STUDENTS who are keen to learn about careers within the health industry turned out in force at Hawkesbury District Health Service on Tuesday.

More than 40 students from seven local high schools attended a Healthwise Expo at the hospital, where they were able to gather information and meet professionals working in the industry.

The hospital had displays and stalls throughout the day relating to various fields including community nursing, physiotherapy, and counselling.

The expo was organised by Sydney West Area Health Service, which will hold a total of eight expos in the Western Sydney area during the coming months.

Upcoming Healthwise Expos

- Blacktown Hospital on May 6
- Mt Druitt Hospital on May 8
- Westmead Hospital on May 18

The Health Service's chief executive, Professor Serena Baynes, said the Healthwise Expo was a new initiative designed for Year 10 to 12 students to learn first-hand what it is like to work within the health industry.

"This is a great opportunity for the young people of western Sydney to make informed choices about pursuing a dynamic and satisfying career within the health industry," Prof Baynes said.

The Health Service's Nursing and Health Professions in Schools program co-ordinator, Yvonne Biegmann, said the expo had been developed with the Australian Industry Group and workplace partnerships across western Sydney.

"According to a 2008 Sydney West Area Health Service career information survey, many school students wanted more information about health career pathways currently available to school students and parents," Ms Biegmann said.

"Healthwise has been created to fill this information gap on health career pathways currently available to schools, students and parents."

Sydney West Area Health Service is the largest employer in the health sector for the outer western Sydney region, employing staff from about 50 professions.