2008 | Adolescent Medicine Addiction Service is established at CHW. Following Dr Bronwyn Milne as first paediatric addiction Medicine Fellow, Bronwyn goes on to attain joint RACP Fellowship and Addiction Medicine.

2010 | The Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network is established. Following a worldwide search for candidates, the Medical Foundation Chair in Adolescent Medicine is established with Professor Kate Steinbeck as the inaugural Professor, located in the Academic Department of Adolescent Medicine; the Chair sets up an Adolescent Research Interest Group and embarks upon an ambitious research program across a range of areas.

2011 | The eighth Australian and New Zealand Adolescent Health Conference, in conjunction with the third IAAH Asia Pacific Congress, is held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, co-convener by the NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health and Department of Adolescent Medicine in collaboration with the International Association for Adolescent Health, the conference was opened by Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, Governor General of Australia, and attended by over 500 people from 15 countries. All delegates are made members of a re-established Australian Association for Adolescent Health.

2012 | Clin A/Prof Sue Towns is appointed as Network Head of the Department of Adolescent Medicine with strategic planning around developing appropriate adolescent services across the Network to support adolescents wherever they present.

2013 | NSW Kids and Families is established as an Independent Statutory Authority with NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health moving across to become the Youth Health and Wellbeing team; David Bennett is appointed to the Board and seconded as Youth Health Adviser until 2017 when Prof Rachel Skinner takes over the role supporting the Youth Health and Wellbeing team, now within the newly established Maternity, Child Youth and Paediatrics Unit within the Health and Social Policy Branch at NSW Health.

2013 | Trapeze is established to provide a ‘supported leap’ into the adult health system for young people aged 14 – 25 with chronic illness; in 2015, the NSW Minister for Health, The Hon Jillian Skinner MP officially launches the Trapeze website and, in 2017, Trapeze became an official program under the auspices of the Department of Adolescent Medicine.

2014 | Eating Disorders Day Program is established in collaboration with the Butterfly Foundation, completing the development of one of Australia’s largest and most comprehensive hospital-based services for young people with eating disorders. The program officially moves from its temporary CHW location to its Crows Nest location in 2016.

2015 | Planning begins for Centre for Adolescent Young Adult Health (CAYAH) as part of the collaborative Bright Alliance Development on the Randwick campus prioritising Adolescent and Young Adult health and an adolescent model of care across the campus.

2015 | The CICADA Centre NSW (Care and Intervention for Children and Adolescents affected by Drugs and Alcohol) is established at CHW co-led by Prof Elizabeth Elliott and A/Prof Susan Towns, bringing together three teams of experts from the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Clinic, Family Service (Teenlink) and Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Service, to assist children, adolescents and families and NSW health professionals to build leadership and research into the prevention of harm to children and adolescents from drugs and alcohol. Launched by Hon Jillian Skinner as a statewide centre of excellence and a unique lifespan approach to the risks of alcohol and substance use.

2015 | Gender dysphoria clinic established. A collaboration between Adolescent Medicine, Psychological Medicine and Endocrinology is established within current resources, however further recognition of rapidly increasing need within a very high risk group of young people is necessary. (2017 update: currently on hold due to funding).

2016 | CAYAH Level 7 Bright Alliance opened Randwick with collaborative transition and adolescent clinics running, hosting Trapeze, and the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) Transition Coordinators, and an evolving Department of Adolescent Medicine. Officially opened by NSW Premier (Gladys Berejiklian) and NSW Health Minister (Brad Hazzard).

2017 | Royal Australasian College of Physicians approves Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine as a specialty, as dual training within both divisions of the College. Senior clinicians were recognized as having this specialty status based on prior practice and the Department of Adolescent Medicine accredited as a training site.

2017 | Academic Department of Adolescent Medicine (ADAM) receives National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding to establish a Centre of Excellence in Adolescent Health Research which will address adolescent health services in the Digital Age.
Summary:
The Department of Adolescent Medicine at The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) has been at the forefront of developments in the field of adolescent health and medical care for the past 40 years. As well as pioneering a comprehensive, integrated and creative model of care linking inpatient, outpatient and community-based services for young people, the department has undertaken focused research, provided undergraduate and postgraduate education and training and supported policy planning activities at both state and national levels.

At the international level, senior staff members have played influential roles in the establishment of both national and international associations for adolescent health, contributed to global initiatives through consultations with the World Health Organization (WHO), and participated in the work of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, the International Association for Adolescent Health and other prestigious professional bodies.

Recent decades have seen the expansion of clinical services within the Hospital, consolidation of clinical and health services research and major contributions to advocacy and capacity building in youth health care with the establishment of the NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health (NSW CAAH) at CHW and Centre for Research into Adolescents' Health (CRASH) at Sydney West Area Health Service (SWAHS). Senior medical staff have achieved academic recognition and contributed to the creation of Australia's first fully university-supported Chair in Adolescent Medicine.

Since the establishment in 2012 of the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, linking The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) with the Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick (SCHR), the Department of Adolescent Medicine has begun to explore networked models of care and, through linkages with colleagues in the adult hospitals on both campuses, escalated efforts to develop adolescent and young adult/transition services.

A brief history of Adolescent Medicine at Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children (including milestones at Westmead Hospital):

1977 | Australia’s first hospital-based adolescent medical unit (AMU) is established at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children (RAH) by Drs David Bennett and Suzanne Robertson and officially launched in 1978 by Dr Andrew Refshauge MP, the NSW Minister for Health.

1978 | AMU hosts a national seminar at which the Australian Association for Adolescent Health (AAAH) is established; AAAH influences policy and health care developments in the country throughout the 1980s.

1980 | World Health Organization invites Dr David Bennett to chair an Expert Working Group on Health Needs of Adolescents in the Western Pacific Region in Manila, Philippines; Dr Simon Clarke initiates the Adolescent Medicine Unit at Westmead Hospital, the first such service to be established in an adult hospital in Australia.

1981 | AMU at RAHC hosts the first national adolescent health conference in Sydney: Dangers to Adolescent Health: Is Society Responsible?

1983 | Australia’s first adolescent ward is opened at Westmead Hospital.

1984 | AMU’s Youth Arts Program is formally established with visual artists working creatively with hospitalised young people with profoundly positive effects, inspiring worldwide interest and admiration; a WHO Study Group on Young People and Health for all by the Year 2000 is held in Geneva, Switzerland with Dr David Bennett as Consultant and Rapporteur; an important outcome is the subsequent establishment of the Adolescent Health Programme at WHO Headquarters in Geneva.

1985 | AMU establishes an innovative Family Consultation Service and consolidates a range of subspecialty clinics for adolescents with chronic illnesses.

1987 | Adolescent Ward opens at Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children (RAH) in Camperdown; with AMU’s support, AAAH hosts the fourth International Symposium on Adolescent Health in Sydney including a parallel youth event called Kobra Youth Health Festival; the International Association for Adolescent Health (IAAH) is established at the conference.

1990 | Cellblock Youth Health Service is established at an old police station near the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Camperdown, integrating creative arts activities with health promotion programs and health services for at-risk and homeless young people; this initiative completes the creation of a comprehensive Department of Adolescent Medicine (at RAHC), incorporating adolescent health services at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

1994 | A formal Fellowship Training Program in Adolescent Medicine is established attracting in subsequent years, in addition to Australian advanced trainees, doctors from Hong Kong, New Zealand, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Israel, Switzerland and the UK; upon returning to their own countries, many have established specialised health services for young people and adolescent health associations.

1995 | With the move to The New Children’s Hospital at Westmead, AMU establishes a close working relationship with Westmead Hospital’s Adolescent Medicine Unit and an outreach medical service at High Street Youth Health Service in Harris Park, serving the health needs of homeless and at-risk young people in the area.

1996 | Youth Health Forum is established as a joint initiative with the Adolescent Medicine Unit at Westmead Hospital, later embracing a broader group of stakeholder organisations; transition clinics for adolescents with a range of chronic illnesses are established at the new children’s hospital.

1997 | The Third IAAH Pacific Rim Conference: Celebrating Cultures and Commonality is organised by the Department of Adolescent Medicine with 400 adults and 100 young people attending; this ambitious, multi-faceted international conference is opened by His Excellency Sir William Deane AC KBE, Governor General of Australia.

1998 | The NSW Government officially launches the NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead with the goal of ‘improving the health of adolescents and their families through an organised multi-sectoral approach’; Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, grants Vice-Regal Patronage to the Centre in 2001.

2001 | A joint Eating Disorders Program is formally established in conjunction with the Department of Psychological Medicine and becomes a recognised centre of excellence in NSW. Teen Link is commenced in collaboration with Drug and Alcohol Services in Western Sydney, providing health care and support to the adolescent children of parents involved in local Methadone programs.

2002 | The Department of Adolescent Medicine celebrates its 25th anniversary together with colleagues, collaborators and supporters throughout Australia.

2003 | The Centre for Research into Adolescents’ Health (CRASH) is established in Sydney West Area Health Service incorporating research projects at CHW, with Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, as Patron; Adolescent Medicine Unit at Westmead Hospital hosts The Art and Science of Advancing Adolescent Development, the second ANZ Adolescent Health Conference.

2004 | NSW CAAH produces A Resource Kit for GPs in collaboration with Transcultural Mental Health Centre, launched by the Hon Morris lemma, NSW Minister for Health; major research reports from the ACCESS Study, mapping youth health services throughout the state and creating a better practice framework, are released by the Director General of Health, Ms Robyn Kruk.

2004 | Dr Sue Towns is appointed as Head of the Department of Adolescent Medicine at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

2006 | Young people’s health – What’s it going to take? The fifth ANZ Adolescent Health Conference is co- convened by Department of Adolescent Medicine and NSW CAAH, attracting 600 delegates from 15 countries; the Conference is opened by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of NSW and The New Zealand Minister for Youth, The Hon Nanaia Mahuta.