

St John's enters the history books today

By GERARD SKEHAN

ST John's Hospital makes history today as the first public hospital to be awarded with a prestigious Accreditation Award.

The award, presented by Dr Andrea Prothero of the Irish Health Services Accreditation Board, signifies that the Hospital has a very high standard of patient care.

On presenting the award, Dr Prothero said that everyone who works in St John's Hospital can be proud of their collective achievement.

"The hospital will hold the Accreditation Award for three years from October 2003. It is a significant accomplishment and the degree of commitment to quality improvement by the hospital staff is highly commendable," he said.

Accreditation is the longest established and most widely known form of external assessment of healthcare services throughout the world.

The award means that the hospital has demonstrated it has a commitment to the continuous improvement of the quality of care and service delivered and that it is compliant with the

national quality standards of the Irish Health Services Accreditation Board.

The accreditation process uses internationally validated standards of excellence, self-assessment and the skills of peers trained and appointed as a team of surveyors.

To date over 60 per cent of all public acute care hospitals have voluntarily applied for accreditation in Ireland.

Tim Kennelly, chief executive of St John's Hospital said, "Everyone associated with St John's is thrilled with this award particularly as we are the first public hospital to achieve the award."

"We see it as a recognition that we provide the highest possible standard of care and treatment in a professional and compassionate manner to every person who avails of our services."

"We are very proud of our tradition of providing hospital services to the people of Limerick and the surrounding areas since the Hospital's foundation in 1780, and of the tremendous contribution which the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary have made since they came to St John's in 1888," said Mr Kennelly.



St John's Hospital which has become the first public hospital to be awarded with a prestigious Accreditation Award (LL)

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