On 20 July 2012, Dr Helen Creasey retired from her position as Senior Staff Specialist in Geriatric Medicine, at Concord Hospital. The occasion was marked by a function attended by Helen’s past and present colleagues of many disciplines from the Concord Aged Care and Rehabilitation Services. Of note was the presence of a large number of Helen’s former and current Advanced Trainees (a testament to the inspiration Helen has provided to so many), and of Carmel de Martin (Social Worker) and Professor Tony Broe, who established the Concord Hospital Department of Geriatric Medicine in 1985.

After training as a Neurologist and clinical researcher at Sydney and Lidcombe Hospitals, the Flinders Medical Centre, and then at the National Institute of Ageing in Baltimore, Helen joined the Concord Department in early 1986 as a Senior Lecturer in Geriatric Medicine. She transferred to a Staff Specialist Geriatrician position in the early 1990s.

Helen was quickly recognised as a fine clinician, who was capable of managing a heavy workload with great skill, efficiency, thoroughness and humanity. She has been a fierce advocate for those without power or voice. Helen has particular expertise in Neurodegenerative Cognitive Disorders, for which she is recognized nationally and beyond. Working with Tony Broe and others, Helen established a strong record as a researcher that extends from Neuropathology to Neuropsychology to Epidemiology to Service provision. Helen has contributed significantly to the development of all aspects of Aged Care Health Services at Concord Hospital, in the local community and in NSW. As a teacher, at the bedside or from a podium, Helen excels. Her contributions are always insightful, provocative, evidence based and expressed with precision and flair. She is great demand as a speaker at conferences and meetings. Helen has a remarkable capacity to analyse complex circumstances, identify core and key issues and their consequences, and express her conclusions and suggestions with clarity and directness. She has kept us all honest.

Helen was awarded an AM for her contributions to Geriatric Medicine, Dementia Care and medical education in 2007.

Many at Concord have benefitted from Helen’s many contributions over the past 26 years. She enters a “semi” retirement with our thanks and best wishes. We are comforted by her intention to maintain her involvement with our services through teaching and related roles.