07 October 2014

Annual report showcases exceptional performance

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s (SCHHS) second annual report shows another record performance.

Emeritus Professor Paul Thomas AM said among numerous achievements, the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Board was most proud its public hospitals had delivered more services to locals in 2013-14 than ever before.

“The report will also give the community further confidence because not only have more services been provided, they have been delivered in a safe, sustainable and efficient way,” Professor Thomas said.

The last financial year was one of exceptional challenge, change and achievement.

“Total hospital activity across the SCHHS in 2013-14 increased by 5 per cent over the previous year,” Professor Thomas said.

“Our emergency departments provided care to over 115,000 patients - over 7,000 more than the previous year. The SCHHS responded to the continued growth in demand for elective surgery with almost 1000 more cases performed than in 2012-13.”

“By any assessment, our performance over the past 12 months has been extraordinary,” he said.

Professor Thomas said the safety and quality of services provided within the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service was paramount.

“Our focus on the continual improvement of the services we provide is underpinned by a culture where innovation and learning are basic tenets of our operation.

“To achieve these results while continuing the planning and development of the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital (SCPUH) is testament to the quality and commitment of our staff,” he added.

“The Board is proud to be responsible for the provision of governance to an organisation that is made up of staff that consistently give of their best and proactively seek new and innovative ways of working that lead to even greater efficiencies and enhanced quality,” Professor Thomas said.
“The focus of the organisation is increasingly dominated by the preparation for our transition to that of a tertiary health care provider, with the opening of the SCPUH in late 2016”.

Health Service Chief Executive, Kevin Hegarty said the report highlights the innovations and new approaches to providing patient care.

“For example, the number of orthopaedic outpatient referrals received at Nambour General Hospital between 1 January 2013 and 30 June 2013 was 1833. The number of referrals received at Nambour between 1 January 2014 and 30 June 2014 was 2658. The growth between the two periods is significant (45 per cent increase),” Mr Hegarty said.

“Following assessment, it is likely that less than 17 per cent of these patients will require surgery. In March 2014, the Health Service initiated ‘non-operational pathways’ to reduce the time patients have to wait before commencing treatment.

“This has the further benefit of maximising orthopaedic surgeons time to see patients who are most likely to progress to surgery,” Mr Hegarty added.

The Orthopaedic Physiotherapy Screening Clinic has seen almost 50 patients each month and the Musculoskeletal Care Pathway over 100 patients each month. This has seen a marked reduction in the orthopaedic outpatient waiting list since these pathways commenced in March. Between 1 March 2014 and 1 July 2014, the number of category 2 patients waiting has decreased by 39 per cent.


ENDS

Media contact: Jude Rhodes 5489 8617 or 0408 713 747