

MEDIA RELEASE

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DDHHS looking forward to more nurse graduates

Nurses and midwives who are set to graduate this year will be considering their choices of preferred employer following the opening of the Queensland Government nursing graduate portal last week.

Robyn Henderson, Executive Director, Nursing and Midwifery Services, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) said she hoped to welcome an increased number of graduate nurses in 2016.

“Nurses and midwives are the backbone of the public health system and we are very pleased when new graduates choose to take the next step in their career with DDHHS,” Ms Henderson said.

“The recent state government announcement of funding over the next four years for an extra 1,000 graduate nurse and midwife positions per year, and 400 nurse navigator positions across the state was very encouraging.

“We had 30 graduate nurses and midwives start with DDHHS in 2015 and we look forward to having at least as many, and hopefully more, in 2016.

“Prospective graduates need to provide a covering letter, CV and referee report. They can log on to the Queensland Government Graduate Portal at www.graduates.qld.gov.au/ to find more information about the application process.

“DDHHS is an excellent option for a graduate nurse or midwife because of the broad range of experience on offer, in the range of facilities we operate, from Toowoomba Hospital to our smaller rural hospitals and multi-purpose health services.”

Nurse Jacob Byrne said working at Millmerran Multipurpose Health Service in his first placement after graduation had been an excellent career move.

“I was very happy to be able to start here at Millmerran this year,” Mr Byrne said.

“I think one of the most positive things about nursing in a rural hospital is the variety, because there is literally something different happening every day at work.

“You may be keen on one specialised field, such as cardiology, or orthopaedics, or emergency nursing, or paediatrics or whatever, and in a rural facility you are likely to have practical first-hand exposure to all those fields and more, so you just might find yourself rethinking your options.

“In my case I haven't decided on a particular specialised field so I'm looking to learn as much as I can, and a rural hospital is a great place to do that.”

Mr Byrne said the other great advantage to working in a rural or regional facility was the bond between workmates.

“In a large metropolitan facility you might be working with a person one day, and then not the next, so they may not be overly concerned about the way they treat you because you’re unlikely to cross paths again.

“It’s a totally different story at a smaller facility because you’re all in it together, so to speak, and you’re part of a team that works closely, day-in, day-out. The team here at Millmerran is fantastic and I would describe the atmosphere as more like a family.”

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