13 January 2017

**Gympie Hospital to ‘grow its own doctors’ with rural program**

Six medical students from Griffith University’s rural stream will call Gympie home for the next 12 months, as they continue their medical training with a period / rotation at Gympie Hospital.

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service will welcome six students from the Griffith University Rural Medical Longlook Program to Gympie Hospital on Monday, 16 January 2017.

Director of Clinical Services, Dr Frank Le Bacq said staff are excited to welcome the students, who are taking the opportunity to further their training by learning medicine in a regional community.

“It’s a win-win situation: we get to invest in these students who may well go on to work here in the Gympie Hospital; and they get a first-hand understanding of what it’s like to provide health services in a regional community,” Dr Le Bacq said.

“They will gain invaluable experience of patient care as part of our regional clinical team, and I’m pleased to welcome them aboard for 2017,” he said.

Dr Nova Evans, Senior Clinical Academic, Griffith University said the Griffith Rural program had been developed to provide students with an awareness of rural health in Australia.

“We are very proud that in our short history since starting in 2010, we have produced several Dean’s Medallion recipients, University Medal recipients and above all, produced many dedicated and experienced interns for rural and regional Queensland,” Dr Evans said.

“This Rural Longlook placement will assist these students to develop high standards of professional attitudes and ethical practice in a small community.

“Thier Longlook experience this year at Gympie Hospital will help them understand what it will mean to continue in some form of rural practice in their medical career,” she said.

The Griffith Rural Longlook Program is funded and arranged by the Griffith Rural Clinical School.

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:**

- 11:45am, Monday 16 January 2017
- Meet in foyer, Gympie Hospital
- SCHHS Chief Executive Kevin Hegarty will welcome the Griffith Rural Longlook students on their first day at Gympie Hospital.
Sunshine Coast
Hospital and Health Service

Media statement

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