6 May 2015

Dental graduate gains wealth of experience with Sunshine Coast Oral Health Services

Graduate dentists can experience the challenges of daily dental practice as a graduate intern with the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s (SCHHS) oral health team.

The Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program (VDGYP) offers graduate dentists a full 12-month paid experience gaining exposure to a variety of clinical experiences.

Dr Kim Johnson joined the Kawana dental clinic team in 2014 as part of the program. She was soon immersed in routine and emergency dentistry, paediatric services at school sites, and complex cases including special needs and paediatric patients requiring general anaesthesia at the Caloundra, Nambour and Gympie hospitals. Dr Johnson rotated through the specialist oral health clinics with the SCHHS.

Dr Johnson said the Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program had been a valuable 12 months that increased her clinical competency and knowledge.

“The rotations and variety of clinical experiences have given me an insight into aspects of dentistry I may not have experienced otherwise,” she said.

“The ongoing support from my mentor and senior clinical oral health staff has been invaluable and has increased my competency, confidence and knowledge in a variety of clinical procedures.

“I particularly appreciated the opportunity to work with several specialists including an orthodontist, endodontist, maxillofacial surgeon and periodontist, and practical exposure to the more challenging dental procedures.”

SCHHS Director of Oral Health Dr Elaine Mawdsley said the academic program provided a strong foundation for new graduates.

“The Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program has been very successful and Kim’s contribution to the Kawana team has been exceptional,” Dr Mawdsley said.

“It’s a win-win program for both the graduate and for Sunshine Coast Oral Health Services.”

The program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and supported by the Australian Dental Association, the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons and the Australian Dental Students Association.

For information on the Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program visit www.aitec.edu.au/vdgyp
ENDS

Media contact: Kirsty Stewart | phone 0408 713 747

Follow us! Facebook Twitter