SCHHS celebrates NAIDOC Week and a new model of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week is a time for us all to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements.

This year NAIDOC Week is being held 3 to 10 July, with the theme ‘Songlines – The living narrative of our nation’, highlighting the importance of Songlines to the existence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) is holding NAIDOC events throughout the week at its health services in Gympie, Nambour, Caloundra and Maleny; and is proud to showcase the model of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Cultural Practice Program Coordinator Lance Lewis said to celebrate NAIDOC Week the health service would hold its own ceremonies in six locations from 11.30am to 1pm with traditional Gubbi Gubbi performers, flag-raising and smoking ceremonies.

“We invite the community to come and enjoy some traditional ‘bush tucker’ for lunch, which will include some tasty kangaroo curry and vegetarian curry,” Mr Lewis said.

“Throughout the SCHHS we celebrate our diversity and the history, story and future of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team members.”

Service Director for Community Integrated and Sub-Acute Services, Cang Dang said the health service was proud of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health team and how they effectively operationalise their model of care to support optimal outcomes for our community and patients.

“The model of care articulates the services that SCHHS has been providing since 2013 and how these services help to empower and assist patients to manage their own health, as well as improve their health care journey across the health care continuum,” Mr Dang said.

“It was brought about by extensive collaboration with stakeholders including numerous community organisations.”

The SCHHS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health services include inpatient services, such as hospital liaison officers who provide a cultural link between health professionals and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and family members; community services and programs; preventable hospitalisations; and community partnerships.

Mr Dang said the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health community programs supported the entire SCHHS to deliver services in a culturally appropriate and engaging way.
Programs include Women’s and Men’s Groups; Deadly young persons’ program; Jabba Jabba immunisation program; Worry-up anxiety program; dental, eye, breastscreen, sexual health, cultural healing, diabetes and respiratory clinics; and Well Persons Health Check Day.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health also has partnerships with community groups including Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network; North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health; and the Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Forum.


**MEDIA INVITATION**

You are invited to attend any of the SCHHS NAIDOC celebrations. Please see below list of events for dates and venues.

**SCHHS 2016 NAIDOC celebrations**

**Monday, 4 July 2016 – Gympie**
- Gympie Hospital, Peaceful Garden
- 11.30am – welcome
- 11.40am – flag raising
- 12.00pm – lunch

**Tuesday, 5 July 2016 – Nambour General Hospital**
- The covered deck behind Nambour General Hospital
- 11.30am – welcome
- 11.40am – flag raising
- 12.00pm – lunch

**Wednesday, 6 July 2016 – Nambour (Centenary Square)**
- Nambour Community Health, Centenary Square and training room, Nambour
- 11.30am – welcome
- 12.00pm – lunch

**Thursday, 7 July 2016 – Maleny**
- Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital
- Outdoor eating area
- 11.30am – welcome
- 11.40am – flag raising
- 12.00pm – lunch

**Friday, 8 July 2016 – Caloundra**
- Caloundra Hospital
- BBQ area
- 11.30am – welcome
- 11.40am – flag raising
- 12.00pm – lunch

**Wednesday, 13 July 2016 – Maroochydore**
- Public Health, Wises Road, Maroochydore
- BBQ area
- 11.30am – welcome
- 12.00pm - lunch

**-ENDS**

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