

Media statement

4 April 2017

Indigenous doctor completes first anaesthetic at Sunshine Coast University Hospital

On the opening day of the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH), Dr Paul Mills, a Provisional Anaesthesia Fellow and Torres Strait Islander, was proud to be the first to navigate the safe passage of a patient through a surgical procedure at SCUH.

Local Indigenous boy Jayden Martin, 12, completed surgery at SCUH on the first day of inpatients and theatres on 28 March 2017.

“It’s quite a milestone to be the one to complete the first anaesthetic in this amazing new facility, and as an Indigenous Australian doctor it is a lasting honour,” Dr Mills said.

“I’m so pleased we are able to provide expert care and a safe procedure for patients in our community.”

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service has an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (A&TSI) Liaison Team in each of its facilities, and Coordinator for the A&TSI Hospital Liaison Team at SCUH, Ms Valma King said it was a privilege to be part of people’s journey through what can be a stressful time.

“Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Team is here to help improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders,” Ms King said. “We are here to help them navigate the services and programs across the health system,” she said.

Services available to patients at SCUH include:

- Emergency Department
- Comprehensive cancer services, including on-site radiotherapy
- Specialised medical and surgical services, including a major trauma service and paediatrics
- Maternity service, including neonatal care for premature babies to a level not currently available in the region
- Acute rehabilitation service
- Mental health inpatient service, including the Coast’s first inpatient child and adolescent capacity
- Renal services (including kidney dialysis)
- Interventional and diagnostic clinical support services, including a PET scanner for diagnosing certain types of cancer and cardiac catheterisation laboratories
- Ambulatory care (outpatient) services
- Allied health services, such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

ENDS

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