

### Media statement

11 May 2017

#### **Sunshine Coast University Hospital awarded accreditation**

Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) has received Interim Accreditation from the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS).

Accreditation is public recognition by a health care accreditation body of the achievement of 10 National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, demonstrated through an independent external assessment of performance.

SCUH saw its first outpatients on 21 March 2017, beginning a six week opening sequence with the progressive commencement of patient services including maternity, inpatients, the emergency department and elective surgery. The phased approach was designed to maximise patient safety.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) Chief Executive, Kevin Hegarty said: "Accreditation of SCUH is another milestone for the SCHHS and one of which we are proud."

"Accreditation is an essential independent assurance of the quality of care provided and the systems and procedures that underpin consistent provision of safe care.

"The systems, standards and processes at SCUH are those that apply across our organisation. I know that they are underpinned by the commitment of all our staff to deliver care to the highest standard and to do so in a caring and professional way".

"Our community can rightly feel safe in the hands of a health service which provides consistent, safe patient care." Mr Hegarty stated.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Board Chair, Dr Lorraine Ferguson AM said the Board was very pleased that the determination to commence services at SCUH in a safe and successful way had been achieved. "The receipt of such a positive outcome from a comprehensive independent assessment is validation of the phased approach to the commencement of services at SCUH. The Board's priority is always patient safety". Dr Ferguson was also keen to add "I take this opportunity to again thank all SCHHS staff who are the foundation of all that has been achieved."

**ENDS**

**Media contact: Kirsty Olsen | 5202 0086 | 0408 713 747**

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