3 September 2018

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service staff aren’t afraid of a little blood!

Staff from across the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) rolled up their sleeves to take part in the Australian Red Cross Blood Service’s (ARCBS) annual Health Services Blood Challenge. In just three short months, SCHHS staff gave 218 donations - saving up to 654 lives, the highest number of donations across Australia.

Jan English, Clinical Nurse Consultant for Transfusion and Blood Management, said: “In 2017 SCHHS achieved the most donations for a Health Service in Queensland, this year we are so proud to have come first in the country. Our final tally was a 28 per cent increase on donations from last year.

“We won’t stop there, it is critical to donate regularly. Australians need 25,000 blood donations every single week. These donations help patients suffering from life threatening conditions live longer with a higher quality of life. They support surgical procedures. They also have an essential role in maternal and child care and during emergency response,” she said.

Rebecca Ind, Red Cross Blood Service spokeswoman said SCHHS staff involved in the Health Services Challenge were to be congratulated.

“We hope their example will encourage other staff members and the wider public to join the cause and give others a second chance at life,” she said.

“The presentation of the SCHHS award is timely, it coincides with National Blood Donor Week (2-8 September) which is a celebration of all our legendary donors.

“Aussies generously gave over a million donations last year, but donated blood only lasts 42 days. The need for blood is constant - and you can help by donating regularly. It only takes about an hour and you get to kick back and relax while you’re doing it,” she said.

Call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au to make an appointment.

ENDS

Media opportunity: Interviews/photos with Rebecca Ind (Red Cross Blood Service spokeswoman), Jan English (SCHHS Clinical Nurse Consultant for Transfusion and Blood Management) or participants in the Blood Challenge can be organised on request.

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