4 December 2015

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service celebrates its volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role in the delivery of services at the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service.

Tomorrow (5 December) is International Volunteer Day, and we’re celebrating our valued volunteers.

Around 300 volunteers donate their time to the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service each week, working in a variety of roles.

Volunteer Coordinator Craig Russell says volunteers at the main foyer are often the first point of contact for patients and visitors, and are an important part of the health service.

“Our volunteers provide vital support throughout the hospital, from helping the elderly in the Nursing Home, customer service at the main foyer to operating the kiosk and gift shop.

“Volunteers complement health care professionals by providing practical assistance and support to visitors, patients and their families,” Mr Russell said.

Volunteer Julie Nash has been coming into Nambour General Hospital one or two days a week for the past decade. She mans the desk at the main foyer and says she enjoys the interaction with people.

“Particularly elderly men who have lost their wives and they often say, my wife used to handle all of my medical appointments, so it’s really lovely to see the relief on their face when I say, ‘Don’t worry, I’ll take you where you need to go.”

Mrs Nash says while it’s nice to be recognised on International Volunteer Day, she’d encourage anyone with spare time to consider volunteering.

“I honestly believe volunteering is a two way street, I get a lot of self-satisfaction from it. For some people as well it gets them out of the house and allows them to be a part of society. It’s just a lovely thing to do,” Mrs Nash said.

If you’re considering volunteering at Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, you can phone Volunteering Sunshine Coast on 5443 8256 or visit www.volunteeringsunshinecoast.com.au

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Media contact: Alexia Kelly | 5470 5833

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