Calling all volunteers: be a part of your community’s new hospital!

If you have a passion for your community, healthcare, and helping others, the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) is looking for you!

Opportunities exist for more than 300 volunteers to support patients and their families at the brand new Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH), opening in April 2017.

Volunteers already play a vital role in SCHHS hospitals, providing supportive services including making tea and coffee for patients, preparing children’s colouring packs, and assisting with patient outings. SCHHS is now looking for an expanded number of volunteers to match the expanded healthcare services that will be on offer at SCUH.

Norm Cooke has been volunteering at Nambour General Hospital for 11 years, so can vouch for the difference that volunteers make to the health service, patients and families: “I still enjoy each day volunteering at the hospital as I find it rewarding to help those in need, and to get that thanks and a smile I find is more than enough for me being here,” Mr Cooke said.

Norm volunteers at the hospital two to three days a week, performing various jobs from assisting patients with way finding to delivering newspapers to wards each day. “Each day is different from the last, as you never know what the day will bring. I have developed countless friendships with volunteers and employees alike that will last a long time to come and that is the most rewarding component about being a volunteer, it is something I believe everyone should do if they have the time to spare,” he said.

SCHHS’s Chief Finance Officer John Slaven says volunteers are essential and valued members of the team who support our patients and their family and friends, often through difficult times.

“SCHHS volunteers complement the care provided by our staff by generously giving their time to enhance the comfort and well-being of patients and their loved ones.

“Volunteers work alongside medical practitioners, assist nurses and co-ordinators, help families to cope and support parents, carers and sick children on an emotional and tiring journey. Our volunteers are highly valued within our organisation, and we encourage any potential volunteers to consider joining our team,” Mr Slaven said.

SCHHS volunteers don’t require any formal qualifications, just a friendly, helpful disposition, a willingness to learn and general people skills, as well as a basic level of fitness.
Anyone interested in volunteering at SCUH can contact Volunteering Sunshine Coast on (07) 5443 8256 or visit the website http://www.volunteeringsunshinecoast.com.au/vsc/

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