Continued growth for the health service

The role of Nambour General Hospital and Caloundra Health Service facilities have changed since the commencement of services at Sunshine Coast University Hospital in March 2017. Nambour General Hospital bed capacity has reduced from 425 to 137, while Caloundra Health Service has reduced to 34 beds. Refurbishments at these facilities are underway and will result in fit for purpose infrastructure aligned with service delivery and models of care and reduce the amount of leased accommodation across the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service.

At completion of the Nambour General Hospital Redevelopment project in 2022, bed capacity will increase to approximately 251 beds and optimise clinical and operational adjacencies through the colocation of services. The Caloundra Health Service Redevelopment project is due for completion at the end of 2018 and as a result, capacity will increase to 46 beds and bed alternatives.

The Sunshine Coast University Hospital Stage 2 program continues to build the capacity and capability of the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital tertiary hospital to meet community growth and demand for local services. Bed capacity will increase from 507 to 602 beds. The program encompasses the design, building, commissioning of additional clinical spaces including the procurement, installation and commissioning of furniture fittings and equipment; introducing new and/or improved tertiary services and specialisations; and the recruitment, training and onboarding of a skilled and capable workforce to meet service needs. The introduction of new and complex or expanding services will commence from mid-2018 and include vascular surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, head and neck surgery, maternal foetal medicine, complex paediatrics, neonatology, cardiac surgery, neuro surgery, trauma, thoracic surgery and interventional neuro radiology.
ICT Strategy and Roadmap
Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service has developed an ICT Strategy and Roadmap to articulate how information and technology will support the delivery and transformation of healthcare in the health service over the next four years. These documents provide an overview of the ICT systems and services we plan to deliver and describe their relationship to the clinical and business needs of the health service over this period. They will guide ICT investment decisions, provide a basis for planning required funding and communicate our direction and priorities to those who rely upon our ICT capabilities.

ieMR (integrated electronic Medical Record)
As a significant step in the journey to digital transformation of healthcare on the Sunshine Coast, the health service commenced work in 2017 on implementing the Cerner integrated electronic Medical Record (ieMR) system at Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Nambour General Hospital, with go-live scheduled before the end of 2018. The ieMR system will be the core clinical information system used by our frontline clinicians for planning, managing and documenting the delivery of care to our patients. It will improve access to patient information and, by reducing fragmentation, complexity and redundancy, it will also contribute to improvements in the safety and quality of patient care.

Metavision
The introduction of Metavision in the Paediatric Critical Care Unit (PCCU) and the adult Intensive Care Unit (ICU) has automated data capture from biomedical devices used in these units, providing the ability to quickly visualise data trends and enabling more timely support for clinical decisions and interventions.

GP Data Linkage
Integrated care is emerging as a cornerstone of research and strategic planning for the Health Service. The health service has initiated a proof-of-concept project to link patient data obtained from several General Practices in the Sunshine Coast region with existing secondary care data for patients who consent to share their clinical information with the health service for the purpose of research.
Growing our own health workforce

The Sunshine Coast's future medical workforce is assured, with the commencement of Griffith University's medical school at Sunshine Coast Health Institute in 2019.

The institute is collocated with Sunshine Coast University Hospital and is a unique partnership between the health service, Griffith University, University of the Sunshine Coast and TAFE Queensland East Coast.

Griffith University's Medical program has been training the doctors of the future on the Gold Coast since its inception in 2005, with expansion of the program to the Sunshine Coast to commence early next year. Griffith Medicine students will undertake the majority of their rotations at Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

Deputy Head of the Griffith University School of Medicine at the Sunshine Coast, Associate Professor Jennifer Williams said: “This is an exciting opportunity for students to undertake the Doctor of Medicine program in a state-of-the-art facility in one of the fastest-growing regions in the country, at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.”

Health Service Chief Executive and Griffith University Adjunct Professor Naomi Dwyer says the start of the medical program in 2019 would be a game changer for health education in the region.

“It is wonderful for our region and means medical students from the Sunshine Coast, Gympie and other regions will be able to train at Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

“We know that training in a local facility results in students being more likely to stay, or ultimately return, to the health service after their medical training is completed. It is an important factor in our aim to grow our own health staff.

“This cements our commitment to health industry education and training, which is a win for our students and all parties involved. The future of health in the region just got brighter.”

Associate Professor Jennifer Williams, is the newly appointed Deputy Head of the Griffith University School of Medicine (Sunshine Coast).