

Media statement

4 December 2018

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health celebrates its volunteers

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service's (SCHHS) Executive Team is celebrating International Volunteers Day (December 5) by volunteering their services throughout the health service!

SCHHS has more than 260 active volunteers who contribute more than 5000 hours of their time to the health service each month. Volunteers include Hospital Chaplains, Justice of the Peace (JP) and 'Sunshiners'.

SCHHS Senior Coordinator of Volunteer Services Michelle Acworth says the executive team volunteering their services on 5 December highlights how valued our volunteers are within the health service.

"The Volunteer Service plays a vital role within the health service, providing practical assistance, support and comfort to patients and visitors in each facility. The team are easy to recognise and are often the first people visitors encounter at the hospital. They enjoy escorting families, patients and carers through the facility to ensure their experience is smooth," Ms Acworth said.

Jamie volunteers two shifts a week in radiation, escorting patients in and out of treatment.

"People volunteer for a myriad of reasons. I chose to do so, after successfully undergoing both chemo and radiation myself, last year. After personally experiencing the incredible kindness and support given to me by all the staff and volunteers during such a difficult and worrying time, I felt compelled to give a little something back in return. It is the best decision I have ever made," he said.

Mrs Acworth said: "Jamie is such a valued member of our team, she has a desire to ensure the patients journey is special. She provides support and comfort to patients during the process, she loves to have a celebration with the patient at the end of their treatment to highlight the importance of the journey coming to an end'.

If you're considering volunteering, you can phone Volunteering Sunshine Coast on 5443 8256 or visit www.volunteeringsunshinecoast.com.au

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Senior Coordinator of Volunteer Services Michelle Acworth and Sunshiner volunteer available for interview on request.

Sunshine Coast

Hospital and Health Service

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