

Media statement

30 September 2016

Record numbers of patients treated

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) is treating more patients than ever before.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Board Chair Dr Lorraine Ferguson AM and SCHHS Chief Executive Kevin Hegarty said they were proud of SCHHS' achievements.

"The SCHHS 2015-2016 Annual Report evidenced a high-performing quality health service that was also managing an exceptional expansion with the opening of the \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) on schedule for April 2017," they said.

Highlights from 2015-2016 include:

- 2953 babies born (up 88 on the previous year)
- 250,056 outpatient appointments (up 22,131 from the previous year)
- 121,475 patients treated in emergency departments (up 4283 from previous year)
- 9866 elective surgeries performed
- Significant increase in the use of telehealth creating better access to services for patients (1846 services this financial year compared with 714 in the previous year)
- Advancement of the Consumer Advisory Group to discuss and inform health service issues, and operation of a consumer engagement register that has enabled recruitment of more than 100 consumers who wish to assist the health service on its journey to client-centred and client-engaged health care.
- The formation of a partnership arrangement for the Sunshine Coast Health Institute. It is a joint venture between the health service, University of the Sunshine Coast, TAFE Queensland East Coast and a medical school.

"In the lead up to the opening of SCUH next year, we have undertaken a deliberate staged growth of our services. Nambour General Hospital in particular, has been used as a staging post for the creation and development of services that will be offered at the university hospital," Mr Hegarty said.

"In addition, we saw a 14.7 per cent increase of staff between 30 June 2014 and 31 March 2016.

As at 30 June 2016, the health service staff headcount was 5491. In full-time equivalent positions this equated to 4309.

"This figure is increasing daily as we undergo our large recruitment drive for the new hospital."

Sunshine Coast

Hospital and Health Service

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“We achieved an operating surplus of \$0.96 million for the year ending 30 June 2016. Given we invest \$2 million per day in delivering health services, this result represents a balanced budget,” he said.

“This is a great result and includes a 5.3 per cent increase in total health services delivered over the past 12 months.

Dr Ferguson said: “Between 2016 and 2021 the health service will experience continued significant planned growth in both the range of services it provides and the expanded capacity for our existing services.

“Over the next 12 months, we are determined to successfully achieve not only the opening of the new hospital, but importantly, the successful reconfiguration of services at our existing facilities.

“This is an exciting time for SCHHS and all our skilled, dedicated staff.”

To view the report visit <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/sunshinecoast/annual-reports/default.asp>

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