

Media statement

29 March 2017

First baby welcomed at Sunshine Coast University Hospital

The first baby has been born at the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) on the day maternity services began at SCUH.

Mother Amber Noble delivered baby Layla Noble-Doman – her first child – at 12.51pm today. Both mother and baby are well.

Midwife Nicola Hamilton has been assisting Ms Noble during her pregnancy through the Midwifery Group Practice service, as well as during the birth.

Ms Hamilton said Layla's delivery was a "beautifully natural and normal" birth.

"It's very exciting to have the first baby here at SCUH. Amber was amazing. She did very well," she said.

"The Midwifery Group Practice service allocates a midwife to a mother-to-be throughout her pregnancy, to attend the birth, and also visits the new mother and baby at home after the birth.

"I've been with Amber since she was 17 weeks pregnant and it's been a lovely experience."

Dr Marc Miller, Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service's (SCHHS) Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, said: "We are very proud to welcome our first expectant mums today, and of course our first baby, to our brand new department at SCUH. After many years of planning and preparation, this is a great moment for the team and for our community."

As well as the first birth today, the Women's and Families Service at SCUH also saw the first women in the Day Assessment Unit (DAU). This dedicated space is for mothers-to-be who need assessment for pregnancy complications such as obesity, high blood pressure and gestational diabetes, and includes an outside area for women to get some fresh air while waiting to be seen.

SCUH also features purpose built antenatal consulting rooms and the latest equipment so that assessments, including ultrasounds, can take place in the clinic rooms.

"Our first day of maternity services at SCUH has been exciting for our staff and also very smooth," Dr Miller said.

"This is testament to the great preparation undertaken, particularly in the last two months, to ensure we were ready for service. We undertook a comprehensive program including testing equipment and processes, training staff, equipping supply areas, testing various scenarios,

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and developing interactions with other departments such as anaesthetics and theatres, to ensure everything ran as it should for day one.”

SCUH also saw their first full midwife-led ante-natal clinic for expectant mothers. Ante-natal and post-natal appointments will continue to be available at Nambour General Hospital (NGH) as well as SCUH – although birthing has now moved from NGH to SCUH.

“Our maternity expertise is now based at the new tertiary level facility, to ensure we do not fragment the service and compromise our high standards of safety and quality of care. This will ensure the best possible outcomes for mothers and babies, which our community quite rightly expects,” Dr Miller said.

Further information: Maternity Services at SCUH:

There are 11 birth suites at SCUH. Each is a private, single room with the following features:

- A special bath designed to be used for pain relief during labour, and water birthing
- Telemetry monitoring of babies’ heart rates during labour, allowing birthing mothers to remain mobile
- Resuscitation facilities for newborns
- A fold-out bed for partners to rest and stay overnight
- A comfortable and contemporary environment, with space for family members to visit
- Individually controlled air conditioning

There are an additional four birthing rooms in the Birth Centre at SCUH, which is a more home-like environment suitable as an additional option for women clinically assessed for low-risk birthing. Being physically located within the Women’s and Families Service area, this option provides access to everything a woman and her baby might need should extra assistance be required during and after the birth.

Specialist obstetricians will have remote access throughout the hospital to babies’ heart rate monitoring during labour, facilitating faster decisions at critical times during birth.

There are 27 neonatal cots available for babies who require specialist monitoring, including premature babies. The Neonatal Unit has been designed around a family centred model of care and also provides facilities for parents to stay over with their babies.

In addition, the SCUH Neonatal Unit houses a parents’ retreat, for parents whose baby needs to remain in hospital for longer-term monitoring and care until it is clinically safe for them to go home. This facility provides three double ensuite rooms for parents to stay in with their baby whilst preparing to take their baby home, towards the end of their stay, plus a kitchen and lounge facilities including an outside balcony. The space has been furnished and decorated through funding from Wishlist.

Maternity services at SCHHS represent a collaborative model of care, with midwives and obstetricians working as a team with parents-to-be to offer a variety of birthing options, high

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levels of comfort for birthing women and their families, and access to specialist paediatrics and other services.

Further information: Midwifery group practice

Midwifery Group Practice has been available at Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) since February 2016.

18 midwives provide care to around 20 per cent of women seeking maternity care in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service region – about 550 women a year.

Quick Reference Guide: Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) – commencement of services:

- Pathology, radiology, pharmacy, and back of house (kitchen, cleaning, logistics) staff commenced final preparations for patient care in the week beginning 6 March 2017.
- Outpatient appointments began on Tuesday 21 March 2017 – over 1400 patients were seen in this first week.
- The first inpatients at SCUH were welcomed on Tuesday 28 March 2017 – inpatient services and operating theatres are commencing progressively this week.
- The SCUH Emergency Department also opened on Tuesday 28 March 2017, at 7am.
- Maternity services at SCUH began on Wednesday 29 March 2017, at 7am.
- Elective surgery is scheduled to commence at SCUH from Tuesday 4 April 2017.

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