21 May 2019

SCHHS volunteers '*Making a world of difference*'

For the past 18 months, Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) volunteer Brenda Riddell has spent 66 hours a month at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH).

Every Wednesday and Friday you will find Brenda volunteering in theatre, helping our youngest patients and their parents get through the sometimes-daunting experience of surgery. And she does it all with a smile.

"I just love it. The staff really value what we do, by bringing the patients to them when it's time for their appointment. I know all the staff now and we really get on well and are a team," Brenda said.

"Every parent we encounter as well is so thankful. I had some beautiful parents just this morning says thanks, and the kids, we do it all for the kids."

This year, Volunteering Australia is celebrating 30 years of **National Volunteer Week (May 20-26)**. The theme this year is *"Making a world of difference",* and throughout the week we are recognising our volunteers.

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 our highly valued volunteers keep the health service running smoothly.

"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.

"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," Ms Acworth 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.

Queensland
Government

To celebrate National Volunteer Week 2019, we say thank you to all our tireless volunteers across our health service, who give their time to help others.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Volunteering Sunshine Coast PH: 5443 8256 or visit the website for volunteer opportunities http://www.volunteeringsunshinecoast.org.au.

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