Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service

Media statement

13 November 2018

SCHHS taking action to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) is committed to partnering with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other diverse groups to reduce health inequalities.

In the spirit of reconciliation, and with the support of our community, SCHHS has developed a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to support the national reconciliation movement.

SCHHS Chief Executive Adjunct Professor Naomi Dwyer said the Reconciliation Action Plan: An Action Plan for Reconciliation demonstrated our commitment to reconciliation and showed all our facilities were safe places to receive care.

“As the regions leading provider of health services, and with more than 7000 staff, we have both an opportunity and responsibility to play a role in Queensland’s reconciliation journey,” Adj Prof Dwyer said.

“Our RAP builds on the great work of our current activities which have raised the profile of programs and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, by providing education, awareness and leadership for dialogue and understanding.

“It demonstrates practical actions and performance measures that will contribute to the national reconciliation movement, both within our health service and in the communities in which it serves.”

Actions include continuation of activities such as; providing a range of culturally appropriate services and community clinics in vulnerable area in the community and driving the Cultural Practice Program which focuses on building cultural capability within the SCHHS workforce.

Opportunities include increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment across professional groups. Also encouraging supplier diversity by considering options to source goods and services from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suppliers.

Adj Prof Dwyer said: “SCHHS is committed to person-centred care to meet the needs of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers and their families. I have great confidence in our health professionals and service providers to bring this RAP to life and generate the collective action needed to achieve reconciliation and address the health and broader disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.”
The RAP will be tracked and measured over a twelve-month period. With the guidance of Reconciliation Australia, it will be reviewed and refreshed based on learnings, challenges and achievements.

SCHHS is committed to the Council of Australian Governments' targets to Close the Gap in life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by 2033 and to halve the gap in mortality of children under five years by 2018.

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Media Opportunity:

Join us for the Reconciliation Action Plan Launch Ceremony and an interview/photo opportunity with SCHHS Chief Executive Adjunct Professor Naomi Dwyer and a representative from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health team.

When: 16 November, 2018, 11:30am sharp.

Where: Meet at Sunshine Coast University Hospital Main Reception.