21 February 2020

Graduate nurses and midwives head for the wards

The Sunshine Coast Health Service (SCHHS) will welcome 99 new nursing and midwifery graduates.

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Service Steven Miles said that these new graduates would kick start their careers across SCHHS.

“Joining the Queensland Health team is such a great chance for aspiring nurses to go straight from finishing their degrees to kickstarting their careers,” Minister Miles said.

“These extra nurses will learn on the job and translate the skills they’ve learnt at Uni into better outcomes for patients across SCHHS.

“I’m really excited to welcome these passionate nurses to the Queensland Health team where I know they’ll get the best possible start in their nursing careers.

Across Queensland we’re hiring more doctors, nurses, and ambos which means better patient outcomes, more jobs, and more opportunity for regional Queensland.”

The Palaszczuk Government has hired an additional 274 doctors and 862 nurses in Sunshine Coast since March 2015.

Nurse Educator and Graduate Program Coordinator, Claire Hallinan said it has been a very competitive process where there were in excess of 800 nurses and midwives applying for positions within this graduate program.

“The graduate program at SCHHS is well-regarded. We are proud to have a very high graduate retention rate this is due to our graduates being well supported within a strong education framework, governed by the team of nurse educators and supported at the point of care by a team of dedicated clinical coaches,” Ms Hallinan said.

SCHHS Nursing Director Education, Annette Faithfull-Byrne, identified the key role graduates play in the nursing and midwifery professions.

“They are the future of our profession and we must continue to invest in supporting our novice clinicians. The quality of our graduate program is largely due to the experienced nurses and midwives who support the new graduates commencing each year as they gain confidence and competence,” she said.

Nursing Graduate Maddison Bowles says securing a position with the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service is a dream she had since high school.
“Being provided with an opportunity to work for the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service in my home town means a great deal to me. Now being able to give back to the community that raised me gives me a great sense of pride and achievement,” she said.

Maddison says she was attracted to a career nursing after working in the disability industry and seeing first hand how empowering the process of rehabilitation was. She’s hoping to extend her career to emergency medicine.

“I’d love to pursue a career within the emergency department. You are constantly exposed to a multitude of cuts, breaks, bruises, diseases, everything! You never stop learning in emergency, every day is something different and every day you meet new people from all walks of life,” Maddison said.

The graduates will be placed across the Health Service in various facilities with exposure to a range of clinical experiences including medical and surgical nursing, palliative care, peri-operative, intensive care, paediatric, midwifery, mental health and addiction services.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Interview and photo opportunities will be available with Nurse Educator Claire Hallinan and nursing graduate Maddison Bowles.

WHEN: Monday February 24, 10am
WHERE: Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, please meet at main reception.

ENDS

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