New generation of nurses joins Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service

A new generation of nurses of all ages is joining the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) to deliver exceptional patient care throughout 2017.

Almost 70 nursing graduates have been employed by the SCHHS for the 2017 Graduate Registered Nurse program.

The 62 graduate registered nurses and six graduate midwives will join the 12 month program which commences in February. Graduates will be placed in medical and surgical wards across Nambour, Caloundra and Gympie hospitals as well Intensive Care, Peri Operative, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Glenbrook Residential Aged Care Facility, Palliative Care and the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital, due to open in March.

Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services, Graham Wilkinson said the number of nursing graduates reflected a growing need for nurses in the region, which the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital also supports.

“As a major employer of new graduate nurses, the SCHHS plays a key role in the development of the nursing profession and we are proud of the fact that our graduate retention rate is high with many of our graduates from previous years now moving into team leader roles,” he said.

Nursing graduate Katherine Reaney is looking forward to starting work as a registered nurse in the Medical Assessment Planning Unit (MAPU) at Nambour General Hospital.

Ms Reaney made the decision to pursue nursing because she realised that her previous career was not what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

“I decided to try nursing and was fortunate enough to complete my clinical placements across a wide range of areas, under the guidance of amazing nurses,” Ms Reaney said.

“It gave me an appreciation of how dynamic and rewarding a career nursing is, and now I can’t imagine doing anything else!”

“I am looking forward to getting to know the staff and patients I will be working with, learning how my ward operates, and just generally settling in to my role as a graduate nurse.”

Having started his nursing degree at the completion of high school in 1991, 44 year old graduate Glenn McGoogan’s nursing career is 25 years in the making.

Mr McGoogan said that with his mother a registered nurse and his father in the Royal Australian Air Force, nursing had always held a fundamental attraction for him.
After deferring his nursing studies to enrol as an infantryman in the Royal Australian Army, then working in construction for another decade, Mr McGoogan returned to university to complete his nursing degree.

“It has taken me six years to complete my nursing degree part-time, and I have worked the entire time in various aged care facilities,” he said.

“I am inquisitive and love the variety of skills nursing offers.

“I’m very pleased to be commencing employment at Nambour General Hospital and then into the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital, and am grateful for the chance.”

Mr McGoogan will work as a registered nurse in renal services, starting in haemodialysis at Nambour General Hospital.

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