Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service

Media statement

15 January 2018

End of life care, connecting with communities

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) invites community members to share their experiences about care at the end of life by participating in focus groups across the Sunshine Coast and Gympie regions.

SCHHS Geriatrician and Clinical Service Director, Community Integrated and Subacute Services (CISAS) Dr John Endacott will facilitate the groups. Dr Endacott recognises death as a community event rather than a ‘medical’ event.

“100 per cent of us are born. 100 per cent of us die. In between, 100 per cent of us have a story. In health care, it can be easy to forget about that story and focus instead only on the disease,” Dr Endacott said.

“Hospitals are actually part of communities. As communities, we have an opportunity to come together and care for people at the end of their lives to fulfil their wishes for that last chapter of the story,” he said.

“From a health service’s perspective, this means we need to support and understand the network of people on the Sunshine Coast who care for our patients at the end of life—spouses, families, friends, neighbours, club members and so on.

“What did the experience mean for these people who visited and sat by the bedside, drove our patients to our clinics, provided hands-on care at home, organised funerals and sat with each other when they were grieving? What roles do health care professionals play in supporting these people who are so important to our patients?

“To improve the quality of care for our patients, we are inviting members of the community to spend an afternoon with us sharing their stories about care at the end of life, whether they are patients currently receiving End of Life Care or friends or relatives of people who have received End of Life Care,” he said.

Afternoon sessions will be held across the region between now and April. Contact Sarah on 5479 9844 during office hours 8:00am to 4:00pm to register your interest.

The following event dates will run (dependent on registrations) at a location (to be advised) across the Sunshine Coast/Gympie regions:

- Tuesday 23 January from 1pm
- Tuesday 30 January from 1pm
- Thursday 8 February from 1pm
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- Thursday 15 February from 1pm
- Tuesday 20 February from 1pm
- Tuesday 27 February from 1pm
- Tuesday 6 March from 1pm
- Thursday 15 March from 1pm

ENDS

* Dr John Endacott is available for interview upon request

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