

Media statement

2 September 2019

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service working with GPs to reduce hospital waitlists

A new model of care bringing hospital teams and General Practitioners (GPs) closer together has been piloted throughout Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS).

The **Sunshine Coast GPSI Pilot** demonstrated that GPs with a Special Interest (GPSIs) can play a role in reducing public hospital waitlists and increasing the capacity of the health system.

Since 2017, SCHHS has been actively involved in the pilot, which included recruiting 24 local GPSIs on a part-time basis.

The GPSIs treat patients within the health service focusing on twelve special interest areas: dermatology, gastroenterology, general surgery, gynaecology, immunology, mental health, neurology, orthopaedics, paediatrics, persistent pain clinic, respiratory medicine and urology. GPSIs work part-time, in addition to their work as community GPs.

Between January and December 2018, GPSIs were responsible for 3500 additional occurrences of patient care within the hospital setting. There were 500 discharges from speciality outpatients back to the patients regular GP. Long waitlists reduced significantly in two thirds of the specialties measured (see table below).

SCHHS GP Liaison Officer Dr Edwin Kruys said the pilot was a great example of successful collaboration between GPs and SCHHS.

“We believe it is important to continue to develop and invest in new, integrated models of care, to become part of the solution the growing demand on Queensland’s health services.”

“The Sunshine Coast GPSI pilot contributed to the goals of the Queensland Government’s Specialist Outpatient strategy, reducing wait lists and improving the patient journey,” Dr Kruys said.

“It also provided local upskilling opportunities for GPSIs to more confidently manage patients in a hospital setting, and reduced demand for specialist outpatient services.”

Long waiting list percentage reductions:

Gastroenterology	72% Decrease
Orthopaedics	42% Decrease
General Surgery	39% Decrease
Neurology	24% Decrease
Urology	4% Decrease

Sunshine Coast

Hospital and Health Service

Media statement

ENDS

Media opportunity:

Dr Edwin Kruys available for interviews and photographs

When: 10am, Tues 3 September

Where: Meet at SCUH main reception

Media contact: Alicia Temple | Alexia Kelly | 5202 0083 | 0408 713 747

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