

Media statement

23 February 2018

New generation of nurses joins Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service

A new generation of nurses are joining the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) to deliver exceptional patient care throughout 2018.

86 nursing graduates have been employed by the SCHHS for the 2018 Graduate Registered Nurse and midwife program.

Eighty graduate registered nurses and six graduate midwives will join the 12 month program which commences in February. Graduate nurses will be placed in medical and surgical wards across Sunshine Coast University, Nambour General, Caloundra and Gympie hospitals as well Intensive Care, Perioperative, Mental Health and Addiction Service and Palliative Care.

Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery, Suzanne Metcalf said the number of nursing graduates reflected a growing need for nurses in the region.

“As a major employer of new graduate nurses, 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,” she said.

Nursing graduate Margot Fraser, was inspired to work in nursing, after being surrounded in her life by strong, selfless, dedicated and inspiring family members who also worked in health.

“My aunty has just retired as a Nurse Unit Manager in an Acute Rehab Unit which is where I am being placed myself, my mum was a Physiotherapist and her mum was also a nurse.”

“I studied a Bachelor of Nursing Science at the University of Sunshine Coast, my study has taught me how important it is to build individual therapeutic relationships, one patient can never be treated the same as the next, investigation is vital (this includes a greater interdisciplinary healthcare team).

Previous to her studies, Margot worked in Communications and Media for the Cancer Council Queensland.

“This role established my grounding in health, and I developed a strong sense of self that I was a part of something bigger,” Margot said.

“I needed to be a part of helping those in need again, where I could put the patient first, because every bit of connection and care really does help.”

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A 2017 nursing graduate Kalee Hilliar now working in a Surgical Ward at Sunshine Coast University Hospital, works as part of the nursing team providing safe quality patient centred care.

“My transition from studying to becoming a graduate was a positive experience due to being able to participate in the undergraduate student in nursing program with SCHHS,” Kalee said.

“This program allowed me to experience working as part of a multi disciplinary team in Nambour General Hospital, and now Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

“While I was studying at university, I worked 2-3 days as an assistant in nursing (AIN) which allowed me to socialise in the clinical environment to support transition and further my knowledge, which has significantly supported my transition from studying to nursing practice.”

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