

### Media statement

20 March 2017

#### **Maternity services to commence at SCUH from 29 March**

Maternity services at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) begin on Wednesday 29 March 2017. From 7am on this date, expectant mums will have the option of having their babies in the brand new, \$1.8b hospital.

From this date, maternity services will move from Nambour General Hospital (NGH). Ante-natal and post-natal appointments will be available at SCUH or NGH. This includes an extended midwifery service, where women are cared for and supported at home after birthing.

Dr Marc Miller, Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at SCHHS, explains: "SCUH will be the most advanced hospital in our region, a brand new facility with the latest technology and equipment for a variety of birthing options, high levels of comfort for birthing women and their families, and access to specialist paediatrics and other services"

Dr Miller continues: "Our community quite rightly expects the best possible outcomes for mothers and babies. To achieve this, our expertise will be based at the new tertiary level facility. You cannot deliver the level of care we will be providing at SCUH if you fragment the service. The team environment required to support the model 24/7 can only be achieved by everyone working in the one location. This will ensure we do not compromise our high standards of safety and quality of care."

There are 11 birth suites at SCUH. Each is a private, single room with the following features:

- A special bath designed to be used for pain relief during labour, and water birthing
- Telemetry monitoring of babies' heart rates during labour, allowing birthing mothers to remain mobile
- Resuscitation facilities for newborns
- A fold-out bed for partners to rest and stay overnight
- A comfortable and modern environment, with space for family members to visit
- Individually controlled air conditioning

There are an additional four birthing rooms in the Birth Centre at SCUH, which is a more home-like environment suitable as an additional option for women clinically assessed for low-risk birthing. However, being physically located within the Women's and Families Service area, this option still provides access to everything a woman and her baby might need should extra assistance be required during and after the birth.

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Specialist obstetricians will have remote access throughout the hospital to babies' heart rate monitoring during labour, facilitating faster decisions at critical times during birth.

There are 27 neonatal cots available for babies who require specialist monitoring, including premature babies. The Neonatal Unit has been designed around a family centred model of care and also provides facilities for parents to stay over with their babies.

In addition, the SCUH Neonatal Unit houses a parents' retreat, with a kitchen and lounge facilities including an outside balcony. Dr Lizelle Weber, Director of Neonatology, explains: "This facility is available for parents whose baby needs to remain in hospital for longer-term monitoring and care until it is clinically safe for them to go home. The facility also provides three double ensuite rooms for parents to stay in with their baby whilst preparing to take their baby home, towards the end of their stay. We are very fortunate to have had this space furnished and decorated through funding from Wishlist."

Lizelle continues: "It's a beautiful space for parents going through a difficult time. I'm sure it will be a great comfort to our parents knowing they have a place to rest, as well as the best clinical care for their little one."

Antenatal appointments at SCUH will also benefit from the enhanced features of SCUH, with a Day Assessment Unit (DAU) for pregnancy assessment. This dedicated space will be used for mothers-to-be who need assessment for pregnancy complications such as obesity, high blood pressure and gestational diabetes, and includes an outside space for women to get some fresh air during their appointments.

Purpose built antenatal consulting rooms and the latest equipment mean that a number of assessments, including ultrasounds, can take place in the clinic rooms. Marc explains: "Improved access and quality of ultrasound scanning will allow prompt assessment in pregnancy – yet another way we are able to ease the stress on women and their families."

Dr Marc Miller concludes: "The birth suites, rapid access to theatres, and expertise at one site demonstrate our emphasis on the safety and quality at SCUH for mothers and babies. In turn, this represents the collaborative model of care that we practice, with midwives and obstetricians working as a team with our parents-to-be. The choices available for women combined with expert assessment and a collaborative approach mean that together we can offer the best option for each individual mum-to-be."

### **Quick Reference Guide: Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) – planned commencement of services:**

- Pathology, radiology, pharmacy, and back of house (kitchen, cleaning, logistics) staff commence final preparations for patient care from the week beginning 6 March 2017.
- Outpatient appointments commence from Tuesday 21 March 2017.

# Sunshine Coast

## Hospital and Health Service

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- Inpatient services, operating theatres and maternity services are scheduled to commence progressively in the week beginning 27 March 2017.
- The SCUH Emergency Department will be open from 7am on Tuesday 28 March 2017.
- Maternity services at SCUH begin from 7am on Wednesday 29 March 2017.
- Elective surgery is scheduled to commence at SCUH from Tuesday 4 April 2017.

**ENDS**

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