

## Media statement

6 March 2019

### **Better the balance, better the world**

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) is celebrating the women in our workforce, as part of International Women's Day (March 8).

SCHHS has strong female representation in leadership roles, 50 per cent of our Executive Leadership team are females, including Health Service Chief Executive Adj Prof Naomi Dwyer and Chief Operating Officer Karlyn Chettleburgh. In addition, our Board Chair is a female, Dr Lorraine Ferguson AM.

The total number of SCHHS employees is 7,353 of those, 74 per cent (5489) of employees are female.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day (IWD) is #BalanceforBetter, meaning a balanced world is a better world. SCHHS Executive Director of People and Culture Philippa Murray says gender balance is essential for economies and communities to thrive.

"A balance of perspectives and diversity of thinking is important for all Australian workplaces to embrace. Through diversity, we can better represent and serve our community. We can see women taking on significant leadership roles in our community and forging pathways for other women and girls to follow, and we are pleased to have this happening this within our health service," Ms Murray said.

"International Women's Day is a chance for everyone to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, while also marking a call to action for accelerating gender balance and diversity across the board" Ms Murray said.

The first International Women's Day occurred in 1911, supported by over one million people. Today IWD is it is a global celebration. However, there's still a long way to go towards building a gender-balanced Australia.

### **Face the Facts: Gender Equality 2018\***

- Women comprise roughly 47% of all employees in Australia, yet they take home on average \$250 less than men each week (full time adult ordinary earnings)
- Australian women account for 68% of primary carers for older people and people with disability
- 95% of primary parental leave (outside of the public-sector) is taken by women and women spend almost three times as much time taking care of children each day, compared to men.

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#### Positive developments

- The number of women on the Boards of ASX-listed companies grew from 8.3 % in 2009 to 26.2 % in 2017, due in part to a diversity policy implemented by the ASX Corporate Governance Council in 2010.
- Australian men and women overwhelmingly believe (90 %) that men should be as involved in parenting as women. However, while a significant number of fathers would like to be able to access better workplace flexibility
- As of 2016, over one million Australian workers have access to leave and other protections as part of their workplace agreement or award conditions.

For more information on International Women's Day, or to take part in activities near you, visit [www.internationalwomensday.com/](http://www.internationalwomensday.com/)

\*Australian Human Rights Commission.

**ENDS**

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