9 March 2016

Gympie teens learn how to P.A.R.T.Y

Gympie high school students will receive a real-life insight into the consequences of alcohol and risk related trauma, during a presentation run by the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS).

The SCHHS’s Prevent Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y) program is aimed at providing teenagers with information that will enable them to recognise consequences of alcohol and risk related activities and make safer choices.

Coordinator of P.A.R.T.Y program Andrea Ernst said the students would spend a full day with various services at Gympie Hospital, meeting the people that care for trauma patients – police officer, paramedics, doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, as well as people who have experienced trauma and survived.

“Sadly, each year we see an increasing number of young people coming into our emergency department with life-threatening injuries that could have been prevented,” Andrea said.

“Through DVD, PowerPoint presentations, interviews with patients and families and simulated clinical scenarios, the students are exposed to the painful journey of a trauma patient.

Youths aged 25 and under are over represented in injury and trauma statistics, both in terms of death and long term disability. Road trauma is still one of the most prevalent causes of mortality and catastrophic injury in young people.

Andrea says staging the program in the hospital setting enhances the experience for participants and leaves a lasting impression of trauma and risk taking behaviour.

“The program helps to build stronger relationships with community groups such as police and ambulance officers, as well as staff at the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service.”

P.A.R.T.Y is aimed at teenagers between 15 and 19 years and was developed in Canada. The program is now running in multiple sites across Australia.
The SCHHS P.A.R.T.Y Program is supported by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Health, RACQ and the Sunshine Coast Health Foundation, Wishlist.

**Media opportunity:**

Date: Thursday 10 March, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Venue: Gympie Hospital main reception.

ENDS

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