Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service celebrates National Anaesthesia Day

Monday, 16 October 2017 we celebrate the doctors and nurses who guide our patients safely through surgery.

National Anaesthesia Day is celebrated globally each year on 16 October, to mark the anniversary of the day ether anaesthetic was first demonstrated in 1846 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s (SCHHS) Acting Director of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, Dr Tanya Kelly said the discovery of the anaesthetic effect of ether allowed doctors to deliver surgical and medical procedures without pain.

"Today, we use different types of anaesthesia with high levels of safety: general anaesthesia, sedation and regional blocks. General anaesthesia is performed with modern agents that suppress the activity of the central nervous system, resulting in unconsciousness and lack of sensation" Dr Kelly said.

Anaesthetists are specialist doctors who not only plan and deliver anaesthesia for many clinical procedures; they also provide pain relief after surgery and during labour, emergency trauma management and treat urgent airway problems. At times of great vulnerability for patients, anaesthetists are there to provide information, reassurance and expert clinical care.

“National Anaesthesia Day is an important opportunity for us to raise public awareness of the role anaesthetists, play in patients' wellbeing, and of how they can help patients before, during and after their procedures.”

This year, the theme for National Anaesthesia Day has been chosen as: ageing and anaesthesia.

“As we get older is it more likely that we will need a procedure that may require anaesthesia,” Dr Kelly said.
The key message for patients is: If you require anaesthesia, talk to your anaesthetist about your medications and any medical conditions that may affect your anaesthesia. Your anaesthetist will then discuss the best options for your individual situation, with you.

In the past 12 months, over 17,000 anaesthesia services have been delivered across SCHHS, at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Gympie Hospital, Nambour Hospital and Caloundra Hospital.

**Media Opportunity:**

10am Monday 16, October 2017

Sunshine Coast University Hospital, meet at reception.

With Acting Director of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, Dr Tanya Kelly

**ENDS**

Media contact: Naomi Ford | 5202 0078

Follow us! Facebook | Twitter