

Media statement

12 April 2019

Take it easy this Easter

Stay safe this Easter long weekend: take it easy on the roads, take care around camp fires and be mindful while swimming.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) Emergency Staff Specialist Dr Luke Burman said his emergency team saw many patients whose Easter long weekend or school holiday was ruined by road trauma or injury.

“We don’t really want to meet you at work this Easter, but we will certainly be here if you need us,” Dr Burman said.

SCHHS emergency departments have one of the highest ambulance presentation rates in Queensland and are becoming busier each year.

“Our highly-skilled team of doctors and nurses is committed to providing clinical excellence to all of our patients,” Dr Burman said.

On any average day in 2018 around 379 patients (in total) attended our emergency departments at Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Nambour General Hospital, Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital and Gympie Hospital. In comparison, throughout the Easter long weekend last year, the total number of patient attendances on Good Friday was 399; 447 on Easter Saturday; 460 on Easter Sunday; and 494 on Easter Monday.

Dr Burman said the figures spoke for themselves and urged people to take care over the Easter long weekend.

“Easter is a time to enjoy the company of family and friends. We hope that people drink responsibly, appoint a designated driver and take care of each other,” he said.

“Emergency departments are busy places and patients are attended to and treated according to how urgent their condition is. For example, patients with trauma injuries from a road accident or those with severe illnesses will take priority over more minor complaints,” he said.

SCHHS operates four emergency departments (at Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Nambour General Hospital, Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital and Gympie Hospital), open 24 hours, seven days a week.

A Minor Injury and Illness Clinic also operates at the Caloundra Health Service. It is open from 9:00am to 9:00pm, seven days a week.

Sunshine Coast

Hospital and Health Service

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ENDS

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