

Media statement

28 May 2019

Double delight welcomed at Sunshine Coast University Hospital

Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) has proudly welcomed the first set of premature twins born at just 29 weeks gestation. Little David and Matthew Davies arrived safely last week, weighing just 1.4 kg each.

The premature twins were able to be delivered safely here at the SCUH thanks to staff at the hospitals recently expanded neonatal unit.

Mum Deborah said it was a huge relief to not to have to travel to Brisbane to receive specialist care.

“All signs pointed to my little boys arriving early. For the last four weeks I had been resting up and had been receiving very close monitoring at the hospital.

“While at work I was experiencing a few abnormal aches and pains, my colleagues insisted on calling the ambulance and before I knew it I was at SCUH and significantly dilated. The next morning, I welcomed these sweet little babies into the world.

“I was so lucky to be able to remain on the coast for the birth. Before the expanded neonatal service started at SCUH I would have had to go to Brisbane to deliver,” Deborah said.

“David and Matthew will need to spend a couple of months here at SCUH until they are closer to their full-term date. It would have been so stressful if we had to be in Brisbane, away from our support network.

“Also, during my pregnancy I was able to access the Maternal Fetal Medicine service, caring for women with high risk pregnancies, under the lead of Dr Greg Duncombe. Being able to have everything we needed right here on the coast to give my boys the best start to life is amazing,” Deborah said.

Neonatal unit clinical director Dr Lizelle Weber said parents could stay with their babies in the unit 24 hours a day and be directly involved in the care and decision making.

“David and Matthew are both progressing well. We are so proud we can now offer this increased level of care to our community’s pregnant women right here at SCUH.

“Not having to transport premature babies to another hospital to receive extra care not only reduces the risk of complications for the infant, but it adds extra stress on the family as well. It’s much safer for babies to receive treatment locally where possible,” Dr Weber said.

Sunshine Coast

Hospital and Health Service

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The survival rate of premature babies has improved by up to 95 per cent in the past few years in cases where babies were born in a facility capable of a higher standard of care.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Photo opportunity with David and Matthew, followed by an interview opportunity with Mum Deborah and Neonatal Staff Specialist, Dr Janet Sharpe and Maternal Fetal Medicine Staff Specialist Dr Gregory Duncombe.

When: Wed 29 May, 12:00PM (following Reconciliation Week media opportunity)

Where: Meet at SCUH Main Foyer

ENDS

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