

### Media statement

21 August 2019

#### Working together to improve care for older persons

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) is focusing on improving the health of older residents thanks to \$2.41 million funding as part of the *Healthy ageing: A strategy for older Queenslanders*.

To celebrate **Queensland Seniors Week (17 – 25 August)**, SCHHS is promoting several initiatives it is involved in to improve care and access to the health system for older persons.

#### **Residential Aged Care Facilities Acute Care Support Service - RaSS**

One of those initiatives is **Residential Aged Care Facilities Acute Care Support Service (RaSS)**. RaSS is designed to improve the quality of care of residents of aged care facilities who have become unwell and may require hospitalisation.

SCHHS A/Clinical Service Director Dr Christine Fawcett says: "One of the objectives of RaSS is where possible and clinically appropriate, to provide emergency review and treatment within the resident's home environment. RaSS provides residents of aged care facilities choices for where their treatment will occur."

If an elderly patient within a nursing home becomes acutely unwell, the GP or RACF can call a Clinical Nurse Consultant within the hospital to screen and assess the patient. This assessment will then be shared with an Emergency Specialist or Geriatrician and the team, including the patient, their carer and GP, will determine the best care plan.

#### **Eat Walk Engage**

**Eat Walk Engage (EWE)** is a multi-disciplinary program that improves care for older people in hospital. The program significantly reduces delirium and promotes recovery in acute care wards. EWE program helps patients, family and staff support the older person.

"The Eat Walk Engage program supports hospital wards to provide patients with optimal nutrition and hydration (eat), early and regular mobility (walk) and cognitive and social engagement (engage)," Dr Fawcett said.

Queensland Seniors Week is an opportunity for everyone to promote positive community attitudes towards older people and ageing, facilitate community participation, and enhance community connections.

**Interview and photo opportunities with Dr Christine Fawcett available by request.**

**ENDS**

# Sunshine Coast

## Hospital and Health Service

### Media statement

Media contact: Alicia Temple | Alexia Kelly | 5202 0083 | 0408 713 747

Follow us!  