Nambour General Hospital GEDI program awarded $100,000 research grant

A Nambour General Hospital (NGH) specialist has been awarded a prestigious research grant by the Emergency Medicine Foundation for her work to improve emergency care for older people.

Dr Elizabeth Marsden, Staff Specialist, NGH emergency department (ED) has received a $100,000 research grant to evaluate ways of extending the flagship Geriatric Emergency Department Intervention (GEDI) program to other hospitals in Queensland.

The program, established and grown locally at Nambour Hospital over the past several years, has brought major improvements to the care of the elderly.

The GEDI program, which is now also operating at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital emergency department, involves specially trained GEDI nurses—who are the single point of contact for elderly (aged 70 and over) patients—undertaking structured comprehensive assessments for those presenting to ED.

Dr Marsden said such assessments went beyond the single condition that patients often presented with and enabled a holistic care to be provided in hospital and after discharge.

“This allows us to develop shared care plans with other providers, resulting in avoidance of hospitalisation and improved quality of life for the elderly,” she said.

“Furthermore, there is timely liaison with inpatient units to streamline hospital admission if required—and decrease time spent in the ED, with the GEDI nurse providing an advanced care coordination role.

“This minimises unnecessary waits in the emergency department, which if prolonged, is an unsuitable environment for older people.”

The program is a partnership with the CEDRIC project in collaboration with the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Emergency Medicine Foundation (EMF) Chair Dr Anthony Bell said the EMF grant to Dr Elizabeth Marsden and her research team could lead to the introduction of the GEDI model of care into regional hospital emergency departments.

“From an initial trial, it appears that GEDI has the potential to significantly improve the emergency department experience for elderly patients,” said Dr Bell.
“With specialised aged care nurses attending to the elderly, they can be fast-tracked through the emergency department and discharged much earlier,” he said.

“The knowledge the team learns from the evaluation of a second GEDI trial will hopefully provide the necessary data needed to see it rolled out in other emergency departments in Queensland and across Australia.”

ENDS

Media contact: Naomi Ford | 5202 0078

Follow us!  Facebook  Twitter