

Media statement

30 October 2019

Educating our health professionals to be child aware

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) Child Protection Liaison Unit (CPLU) is holding the inaugural **Child Protection Symposium** on **1 November** at the Sunshine Coast Health Institute.

The symposium is an education platform to improve awareness of the supports available to our staff and local community to ensure that we all work together to keep children safe.

Kaylene Muller, Clinical Nurse CPLU, said the day will provide opportunities to inform, educate and facilitate all staff to deliver health services in a way that is 'child aware'.

"We will be welcoming expert speakers and facilitators from health, the community family support sector and the Department of Child Safety, who work with children and families and experience first-hand the complexities faced in the context of domestic violence, substance misuse and mental health difficulties.

"We are pleased to have a broad range of SCHHS health professionals attending, including medical, nursing and allied health. The symposium has also garnered a lot of interest from students with us for clinical placements.

Ms Muller said: "It is important we can support local families through early intervention – providing better support to parents and carers. Children need life to be stable even when families face rough times, our staff can help adults to seek help when they need it.

"We encourage health professionals to routinely ask the adults that access care at SCHHS if there are any children in their care, as children do well when parents and carers are supported.

"We hope that our staff will feel better equipped to support parents to lay the strongest possible foundation for children's development" she said.

This local event has been supported by Wishlist and their sponsors.

ENDS

Media Opportunity

A member of the CPLU and a guest speaker will be available for interviews.

When: 10:00am, 1 November

Where: Meet outside Sunshine Coast Health Institute

Sunshine Coast

Hospital and Health Service

Media statement

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