

Media statement

30 April 2019

Nurse awarded for program helping patients get home sooner

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) Respiratory Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) Jane Neill is the proud recipient of an award from the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) for the Best Nursing Presentation.

Tanya Buchanan, Chief Executive Officer of TSANZ, said they were a leading provider of research awards in respiratory medicine.

“We have an extensive awards program supporting research in respiratory medicine. We review more than 200 submissions annually and all awards are rigorously peer reviewed,” she said.

Ms Neill’s presentation was focused on the Respiratory Acute Discharge Service (RADS) launched at SCHHS mid-2018. This program enables some Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) sufferers to be discharged home earlier than usual with a team of specialist nurses managing their care.

“The World Health Organisation predicts that by 2030 COPD will be the third leading cause of death world-wide. It is critical we find new methods to reduce the amount of time patients spend in hospital, helping them maintain their independence and avoid coming into contact with infections. Ms Neill’s presentation demonstrated the benefits of reducing hospital time to COPD patients,” Ms Buchanan said.

Ms Neill, recipient of the award, said: “It is a major privilege to receive an award from other experts who I respect in my field. The award demonstrates our success as a health service, and as a respiratory team, in caring for patients who have COPD.

“As of October 2018, we had seen 117 patients, saving 443 days in hospital for this group of patients. On average, the length of stay in hospital for COPD has reduced from 6.7 days to 4.5 days, and there has been a significant reduction in readmission. We are very proud of what we have achieved,” Ms Neill said.

While COPD is a progressive and (currently) incurable disease, with the right diagnosis and treatment there are many things you can do to manage your condition and breathe better. People can live for many years with COPD and still enjoy a good quality of life.

ENDS

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