

Medical matters

The Noosa Hospital Newsletter



Noosa Hospital
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Summer 2008

NOOSA
HOSPITAL

A note from the Chief Executive Officer



Welcome to the Summer edition of Medical Matters – a newsletter produced by Noosa Hospital for local GPs and Healthcare professionals.

In this edition we focus on training, education and staff development. I encourage local doctors to contact the hospital if they have suggestions regarding courses of professional development they would like to undertake at the hospital. Reflecting on the

It is pleasing that the local community has confidence in the hospital's staff and facilities

past twelve months, we finished 2007/08 with the demand on the hospital's services far exceeding initial projections. This resulted in additional resources being allocated to the hospital over and above Queensland Health's original budget allocation.

We will continue to work with Queensland Health to ensure future public patient budget allocations are reflective of population and service growth at the hospital.

Of particular note, the number of

patients presenting for treatment via the hospital's Emergency Medical Centre (EMC) has consistently grown to over 15% per annum. To illustrate this, in 2004/05 Noosa Hospital treated just under 7,000 patients in our EMC, this financial year we expect

the number of patients to be close to 14,000!

It is pleasing that the local community has confidence in the hospital's staff and facilities but given the increasing demands being placed on our services there is little doubt the hospital will face some challenges over the next twelve months. We look forward to working alongside local GPs to meet these challenges and offer quality healthcare to the people of Noosa.

*James Thiedeman
Chief Executive Officer
Noosa Hospital*

How to refer patients

There has been some confusion surrounding the correct procedures for referring patients to Specialists at Noosa Hospital. Some of the problems that have occurred include:

- Referrals being made out incorrectly to the "Outpatient Department".
- Referrals made out to specialists who do not consult publicly at Noosa Hospital.
- Referrals for patients suffering conditions which the named specialist does not treat.



- Referrals that do not indicate whether the patient has private health cover/would like to be seen privately.

If you require assistance regarding referrals, do not hesitate to contact Fran Baldwin from the Outpatient Department on 07 5455 9565 or baldwinf@ramsayhealth.com.au

You can find the most up to date list of Noosa Hospital's Specialist Visiting Medical Officers on the back of this newsletter.

Hospital Happenings

We were saddened by the passing of Dr John McCarthy, FJFICM. Dr McCarthy played a pivotal role in establishing critical care services here at Noosa Hospital and privately on the Sunshine Coast. He held the position of Medical Director since the ICU opened back in 2004. He will be greatly missed.

Dr Peter Garrett, FJFICM has taken on the Medical Director role in an acting capacity.

We would like to welcome Dr Marita Kruger, Dr Malcolm Naude and Dr Stephan Raubenheimer to the Noosa Hospital team. These physicians have taken on senior roles within our Emergency Medical Centre.

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Noosa GP After Hours Service

An interview with Kenny Corbett, Chairman, Noosa GP After Hours Service

1. Where is the GP After Hours Service located?

In April 2008 the newly established "Noosa GP After Hours Service" commenced operating from Suite 4. This was made possible due to the service successfully securing funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing under the "Round the Clock Medicare – Investing in After Hours Program".

2. What organisations are behind the service?

The Noosa GP After Hours Service represents a collaborative initiative between local general practitioners, the Sunshine Coast Division of General Practice and Noosa Hospital.

3. Can you tell us a bit more about the service?

The aim of the Noosa GP After Hours Service is for local GPs to provide high quality after hours general practice care to the local population and tourists. It



is a cooperative company with a not for profit basis. We believe the co-located model adjacent to the Emergency Medical Centre at Noosa Hospital offers patients accessible, affordable and excellent care.

Noosa Hospital has kindly facilitated our current location and arrangement by providing rent free premises.

4. Who runs the service?

We have about 30 GPs on board but we are keen for others to contribute as this is the service used by the vast majority of patients after hours. Patients often need to see a GP after 5pm and given the shortage of 24 hours clinics on the Sunshine Coast, our service has become vital to the local community.

We saw 340 patients in the month of November and our numbers are increasing each month. There has been tremendous community feedback for the service and we feel confident of achieving long term sustainability.

Advance Life Support Training



An interview with ICU Nurse Unit Manager Tina Guthridge.

1. How long does the ALS course run?

We currently have two types of ALS courses on offer to staff. There is an initial ALS course which runs over two days and then there is a refresher course that is four hours in duration. Prior to each course participants are given a resource booklet to study.

2. What does the course involve?

Several multiple choice examinations, hands on practical experience with various scenarios, as well as a practical examination.

3. Who teaches the course?

Currently the course is run by an external provider

who is accredited with the Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC). The course is consistent with ARC guidelines and Australian College of Critical Care Nurses Limited (ACCCN Ltd) Advanced Life Support Curriculum Guide and is endorsed by the Royal College Of Nursing Australia.

Ramsay Health is looking at developing a generic ALS course that will be taught in-house at each facility.

4. What specific skills are taught in the course?

- Patient assessment
- Advanced airway management
- Cardiac rhythm interpretation
- Defibrillation
- External Cardiac pacing
- First line emergency drugs and administration
- Team work / how to co-ordinate an emergency situation

Training for the future

An interview with Staff Development and Gradplus Coordinator Jo Fahey

1. What type of training programs take place at Noosa Hospital?

- Advanced Life Support (ALS) – external provider at present
- Access to Queensland Health Skills Development Centre programs
- Ramsay Gradplus - for graduate RNs and EENs
- Patient Manual Handling
- Basic Life Support – using a train the trainer model
- Workplace Health & Safety
- Documentation
- Fire Safety
- Back Care

2. What training partnerships have been forged with local education institutions?

We have developed a strong partnership with Central Queensland University. They have a campus close to the hospital and we utilise their clinical teaching room regularly.

We also have a great partnership with Sunshine Coast TAFE where I teach on a regular basis and share information with TAFE lecturers.

The work experience program allows us to maintain good ties with local high schools.

3. How many students would pass through the hospital for training in the space of a year?

About 50-60 nursing students, 25 TAFE students, as well as a handful of school students.

4. What changes will be occurring next year in regards to training?

In 2009 we will begin running our own Advance Life Support courses. Previously this has been done by an external provider.

Going in-house will allow us more flexibility to run courses that better suit the needs of our staff as well as medical professionals working in local practices.

Some of the clinical workshops we will be running next year include:

- Chest X-ray interpretation
- Wound management
- Patient assessment
- Arterial Blood Gas Analysis
- Epidural care

We will also be running a Preceptor workshop - designed to help with orientation/induction of new staff.

5. Why should local GPs and Health professionals sign up for training at Noosa Hospital?

It is a chance for local GPs to network with and learn from our hospital staff as well as keeping abreast of current hospital practices and specialist information. It's also a great way for GPs to share their knowledge with hospital staff.

To receive more information about training sessions or to suggest a workshop theme, contact Jo via email at faheyj@ramsayhealth.com.au

An interview with Ms Terri Morrow, Associate Lecturer (Clinical) Nursing, Faculty of Science Engineering and Health – CQ University Australia

1. Can you tell me about the partnership between CQ University Australia and Noosa Hospital?

CQ University Australia's Undergraduate bachelor of Nursing program at Noosa is highly regarded for its teaching and learning excellence. Since 2005, we have forged close links with numerous community and industry partners on the Sunshine Coast including Noosa hospital – providing them with committed, enthusiastic and wonderful student nurses.

2. How do students benefit from this partnership?

Clinical experience is at the core of nursing education. CQ University Australia's clinical placement program is designed to meet the needs of students and the industry partners.

This hands-on experience also:

- Ensures the sustainability of nursing as a humanistic and scientific caring profession.
- Exposes students to a wide variety of clinical learning opportunities in diverse placement settings.
- Allows for the application of classroom-based learning into real patient care situations.
- Creates a partnership with the School of Nursing, opening up professional development opportunities for qualified staff to become preceptors, clinical tutors and clinical faculty thus enhancing job satisfaction and retention.
- Gives access to the free multi-modal preceptorship workshops developed and presented by the School of Nursing faculty.
- Provides Noosa Hospital as an employer, with an excellent opportunity to recruit new staff. Today's nursing students students are tomorrow's RNs.
- Quality practice settings like Noosa are highly sought after by the nursing students.
- Helps fulfill university and hospital expectations in creating supportive learning environments.

3. What type of students do you send to Noosa Hospital for training?

The flexible delivery program in the Undergraduate nursing program promotes learning opportunities for first, second and third year student nurses. Students have an opportunity to indicate preferences for clinical placements which are available in acute medical surgical care, community (including oncology and day procedure), and specialized settings including emergency medicine and intensive care.

4. What are the future plans for this partnerships (expansion? new programs?)

The CQU School of Nursing and Health Studies is committed to producing competent, effective nurses. Each placement is critically evaluated to improve the clinical learning experience of nursing students.

In 2008, Noosa Hospital had a record number of applications for the graduate nurse program with 38 students applying for positions. Many of them were CQ students who had completed clinical placement at Noosa Hospital. Testimonials from students show ever increasing satisfaction and regard for the clinical environment and supportive nurses who guide the students learning.

A University's clinical education program is only as effective as its clinical teachers. The Associate Lecturer clinical is responsible for coordinating, establishing, evaluating and maintaining placements and preceptors for nursing students' clinical experience. This ensures appropriate, quality clinical experiences for students at Noosa hospital. I am honoured to be a part of the future of our nursing profession.

Profile – Dr David Chin

1. What is your area of expertise?

I am a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon.

2. Where did you train?

I was educated in Dublin, Ireland and graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1988.

I am a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

My higher degrees include a MChir(MD) in breast cancer surgery from University College Dublin and a Dean's List PhD in Plastic Surgery from the University of Queensland in head and neck cancer surgery.

3. What are your main areas of interest?

- Skin Cancers (particularly melanoma)
- Head and Neck Surgery
- Breast surgery
- Hand surgery
- Microsurgery



4. What research projects are you currently involved in?

I am a scientist with the Melanoma Genomic Group and Drug Discovery Group in the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. For the past seven years we have been developing new novel therapies in treating skin and head & neck cancers. I currently actively supervise five research programs in QIMR and have published a series of leading articles in these fields.

Both public and private patients can be referred to Dr Chin at Noosa Hospital via post or fax 07 5455 9455.

GP Professional Development

Noosa Hospital is committed to assisting GPs with their professional development. This year we held several GP Education Training sessions.

In July we held "iSaw – looking at what's new in cataract surgery and macular disease".

Ophthalmologists Dr David Lawson and Dr Andrew Foster conducted separate presentations during the session and answered questions from attendees.

In September local GPs were invited to "Hand Made – looking at recent advances in the treatment of skin cancer, common hand conditions and local anaesthesia". This education session was hosted by Plastic Surgeon Dr David Chin.



Charity Corner

Art for oncology

"Club Chemo" is part of Noosa Hospital's Oncology Unit and was set up to create a warm friendly atmosphere for patients and their families as they undergo cancer treatment.

Usually staff raise money for the club by holding a raffle at their annual Christmas party but thanks to generous donations by a few local artists, the unit was able to hold an art auction in July this year.

With more than 30 donated works, and the support of Australis Noosa Lakes and the local community, the night raised over \$14,000.



Clean up Australia Day

On 2 March a team of enthusiastic hospital staff gave up their Sunday morning to take part in Clean up Australia Day... or as we renamed it, 'Clean up Noosa Hospital Day'.

Our hospital is blessed to be surrounded by native bushland and our clean-team of amateur garbologists did an outstanding job of making this environment even more beautiful by removing 11 bags of rubbish from the site.

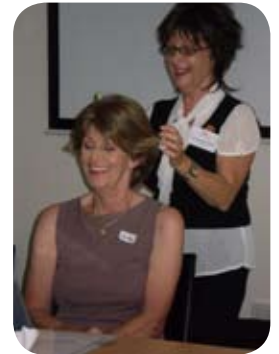


"Look Good Feel Better"

In March 2008, the hospital hosted Noosa's first "Look Good Feel Better" event as part of a nation wide community services program designed to support female cancer patients with their self image.

The free workshop offered women practical beauty tips to help deal with the physical side effects of cancer treatment such as loss of hair and changes to their skin.

The hospital will host more of these workshops in the coming months.



November

After the success of last year's November, Noosa Hospital again participated in this facial hair themed fundraiser.

Last year during the month of November moustaches ('mos') were back in fashion at Noosa Hospital with the CEO encouraging male staffers to 'scruff up' for charity. He even led the charge with a patchy but creative hirsute effort.

Management promised to match dollar for dollar any money raised by the hospital team, aptly titled the 'Noosa Hospital MoBros'.

As the month went on and the mos grew longer the team managed to raise \$1,150 - making a grand total of \$2,300 donated to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and beyondblue. We hope to 'grow' more money this time around!