



CLEAN YOUR
HANDS

healthwaves+

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GOLD COAST HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICE NEWS

Clean hands are everyone's business

Gold Coast Health is targeting clean hands in hospital to further improve patient safety. The urgent need for improvement in hand hygiene practice has been highlighted by the recent increase in Clostridium Difficile infections seen in hospitals across Australia including Gold Coast hospitals.

Patients, staff and visitors will notice changes as the service aims for a 90 per cent clean hand compliance rate. Infection control is leading the charge among staff with clean hand audits taking place across units at Gold Coast and Robina hospitals and further audit training underway.

Executive Director Ged Williams highlighted to all nursing leaders that part of their responsibility is to meet this patient safety standard. Team safety scrums are being introduced on each shift to emphasise infection control practices and demonstrate vigilance in the units.

All unnecessary signage is being removed in patient areas, to further emphasise

key safety messages in the hospitals. This initiative will continue at Gold Coast University Hospital.

New clean hand signage will feature at the main entry and in patient units. Over 100 new brackets to hold hand rub dispensers are being installed in the Emergency Department and pocket bottles are now available to staff.

Chief Executive Ron Calvert said that in order to become world class, a safe service is essential.

"The minimum target for hand hygiene compliance is 70 per cent and the time has come to ensure that we not only meet the target but achieve 90 per cent compliance."

He said the World Health Organisation has confirmed that hand hygiene is the most essential measure to reduce infections in hospitals. The time has come to tackle this problem head on.

Above: Dr Kathryn Jennings prepares to visit a patient in the Gold Coast ED.

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Chief Executive Open Forums

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Don't miss your chance to meet with the Chief Executive, hear updates and discuss hot topics first hand.

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Message from the Chair

Ian Langdon

It is important that we look beyond the call for voluntary redundancies resulting from an unexpected \$9.2 million reduction in Commonwealth Government funding and focus on our position heading into the new GCUH.

We are entering a period of considerable growth and this will provide opportunities and security for our staff. We are in advanced negotiations with Department of Health for the introduction of new services including:

- Level 1 Trauma
- Neonatal Intensive Care
- Cardiac Surgery
- Cancer Centre including Radiation Oncology
- Neurosciences

As Gold Coast Health positions itself for growth, it is also restructuring to improve opportunities to provide world class patient care. Internal review assisted by external assessment has highlighted that there is room to improve some areas of clinical performance.

The Board fully supports the changes being introduced by Chief Executive, Ron Calvert while appreciating that there will be anxiety for a period of time.

There is increasing transparency and clarity in respect of a wide range of clinical issues not simply issues related to waiting lists. This increased transparency provides a factual basis for targeting improvement and I have no doubt that clinicians will seize the opportunity to drive improvements throughout our hospital and health service. Ron will provide the necessary leadership but ultimately results are derived from the contributions of those interacting with the public. The Board has confidence that Gold Coast Health staff will meet the challenge.

It is my view that clinicians agree that change is necessary and will embrace changes that are designed to deliver exactly what they themselves strive for, namely superior patient care and outcomes. I am buoyed by unsolicited comments I receive as I walk around our facilities that there is a growing sense of excitement albeit mingled with an element of apprehension as we prepare to settle into new facilities.

The immediate future for Gold Coast Health is challenging but invigorating. We are in a most fortunate position of having world class facilities at our disposal and will have growth funding to take advantage of the opportunities presented. We have an excellent professional and administrative skills base so consolidating these features along with new services we enable us to be more capable of providing the patient care our community deserves.

A healthy dose of reform

A process redesign aimed at improving the patient experience is underway at Gold Coast Health. As part of this process, Expressions of Interest in voluntary redundancies went out to staff in December. Applications have been reviewed and staff in positions considered surplus to the needs of Gold Coast Health have been advised. Over 300 staff responded to the offer and around 100 have been accepted.

Decisions on surplus positions were based on the principles of patient safety and maintaining a positive patient experience. The goal is to achieve efficiency without compromising these two key principles.

People, Systems and Performance Executive Director Damian Green said that the VRP process also presented opportunities to improve the quality and efficiency of our service.

“There is a genuine opportunity to initiate and invest in workplace redesign to develop different methods of delivering care focused around patient needs,” he said.

The consultation phase is now underway and we are keeping staff informed through direct contact and via the Gold Coast Health Reform pages on QHEPS.”

The call for redundancies is part of an ongoing strategy in line with a new structure and a new facility at Gold Coast University Hospital.”

Furthermore other initiatives within our service are producing results. In a comparison with last year, over 70 per cent of presentations to emergency are being processed within four hours (NEAT) compared with around 49 per cent in December 2012. The percentage of people who did not wait to be seen in emergency has reduced by half in a yearly comparison and the time from ambulance stretcher to bed has also reduced.

A Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) has now been established at Gold Coast Hospital on level six. It aims to reduce the amount of time patients wait to be seen in the emergency department as well as helping patients see a specialist sooner where appropriate.

There is more good news related to the established MAU at Robina (see page 5).



L-R: Joan Loader, NUM Helen Gunter, Dr Ravi Batra with patient John Loader.

Cath lab sees its 13,000th patient

Since opening in 2005, Gold Coast Hospital's \$7 million cardiac catheter suite has seen more than 13,000 patients.

Patients such as Mr John Loader are living proof that the service is a necessity for Gold Coasters and saves residents from travelling to Brisbane for treatment.

“Having this service close to home saved my life and I thank all the staff at Gold Coast Hospital for taking care of me during my stay,” Mr Loader said.

Cardiac Cath Lab Director, Dr Ravi Batra said Mr Loader had an out of hospital cardiac arrest and was treated as an emergency case in the Cardiac Cath Suite requiring an urgent angiogram.

“After spending three days in the intensive care unit, Mr Loader had a

cardiac defibrillator implanted and could then recover and come for regular checkups closer to home,” Dr Batra said.

“Other patients who suffer from acute heart attacks are also treated as an emergency case in the Cardiac Cath Suite, instead of undergoing surgery. During catheterisation a long thin plastic tube or catheter is placed into the heart and contrast is injected through it to take pictures and arteries are unblocked using stents.”

The service will grow from one lab to three once the Gold Coast University Hospital opens in September. There will also be greater technical capability at GCUH, including one lab with Electro Physiology Studies (EPS) capability which will allow expanded interventional services dealing with the electrical aspects of the heart.

Graduate nurses start

Seventy four graduates embarked on their nursing careers with Gold Coast Health in January.

The graduates are part of this year's overall intake of 136 registered nurses and midwives which is the largest intake at any Queensland Hospital.

The graduates will have the opportunity to train in different areas of the service including Medical/Surgical, ICU, Emergency Department, Theatre, Surgical Centre, Rehabilitation, Endoscopy, Mental Health, Special Care Nursery, Maternity, Paediatric, Renal dialysis, and many more.

Below: This year's graduate nurse intake is the highest in Queensland.



Staff excellence awarded

Gold Coast Health celebrated some of its outstanding staff at the annual Staff Excellence Awards ceremony in December. Congratulations to the following winners of the Excellence Awards:

Debra McCormack, Division of Medicine
– HSCE Award – Living Our Values

John Doolan, Environmental Services
– Esprit De Corps Award

Dr Michael Thomas, Orthopaedic Surgeon
– Growing Performance Through Our People and Teams

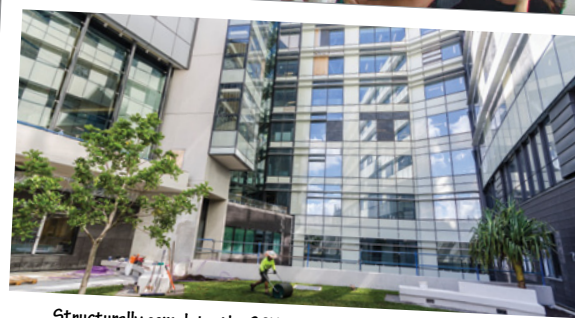
Gold Coast Health Capital Works Project Team – Engaging our Community and Stakeholders

Gold Coast Sexual Health Service
– Eda Beck Memorial Award Achieving Innovation in our Service and Care
Leigh Collier, Sara Woodhouse and Lisa Bloomfield – Improving our Safety, Wellness and Quality Award (joint winner)

Blood Transfusion Committee
– Improving our Safety, Wellness and Quality Award (joint winner)

COPD Winter Wellness Strategy Group
– Access and Flow Award

Congratulations also to our Length of Service Award recipients including: John Andersen, Michael Tomlinson and Margaret Skjonnemand who have completed 40 years of service with Queensland Health. Staff were also recognised for 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service.



Structurally complete, the GCUH will be tested with training and service trials taking place prior to opening in September this year.

Bringing GCUH to life

After four years of construction, we are now ready to bring the Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) to life.

Prior to moving in, a number of concurrent activities will be undertaken in order to prepare both staff and the facility for opening. This will include installing furniture like tables and chairs, medical imaging equipment and essential telecommunications systems all of which are critical for the delivery of patient treatment. All elements of the building will be tested like the air-conditioning and medical gases for example. Staff will start familiarising themselves with GCUH and their new area and begin training on any new equipment.

The focus until the move is to ensure that everything from equipment to our staff and our processes and procedures are tested and trialed, so that we can safely provide patient services to the community when we open. Once all existing services and staff at Gold Coast Hospital are moved across to the GCUH, the Gold Coast Hospital will be closed and decommissioned.



Michael Tomlinson and John Andersen receive recognition for 40 years of service.



Dr Siva Sivakumaran from team COPD Winter Wellness Strategy Group collects the Access and Flow Award.

Foundation support gets patients moving

Patients undergoing physical rehabilitation can now receive treatment at Carrara Health Centre's new mobility training area which opened in December.

The mobility training area allows patients to rehabilitate using a variety of obstacles and surfaces found in the community including sand, grass, gravel, road kerbs, ramps and stairs in preparation for their return to community living.

Four years after the original plan was conceived but postponed due to funding constraints, the vision became a reality thanks to a \$50,000 donation from the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation.

Gold Coast Hospital Foundation CEO, Kim Sutton said they were proud to have been able to provide the funds to make such a high quality new facility possible.

"This is exactly the sort of project that the Foundation and our supporters love to fund," Ms Sutton said.

"This equipment will make a real difference to patients, and health professionals who will now be able to deliver really comprehensive high quality rehabilitation training."

Executive Director of Community, Subacute and Aged Care Services, Rob Pegram said the training area will help patients prepare for mobility in everyday life.

"This new facility enhances the Centre's focus of supporting return to community living by maintaining or improving independence and quality of life," Mr Pegram said.

"The combination of rehabilitation areas here at the Health Centre provides patients

and therapists with comprehensive facilities for maintaining and maximising functional capabilities and will prepare patients for dealing with the wide variety of surfaces likely to be encountered in every day life."



Gold Coast Hospital Foundation Chair Gary Baildon and CEO Kim Sutton cut the ribbon to the new facility with Gold Coast Health Board Chair Ian Langdon.

Foundation CEO sets a new direction

The new CEO for the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, Kim Sutton, has come on board with a grand vision for the Foundation and its future development.

Kim plans to take the Foundation to new heights where activities will be in-step with the impressive and exciting developments for healthcare on the Gold Coast, including the opening of the Gold Coast University Hospital. The first step is to reinvigorate the Foundation's brand with a new look and website by June 2013 along with a fundraising strategy that will connect with the community and inspire increased support and involvement.

"Now is a hugely exciting time for healthcare on the Gold Coast and it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of a brand new, state of the art, purpose built Gold Coast University Hospital," Ms Sutton said.

"This facility along with the services' other health facilities provide a quality service to our community and the Foundation wants to add value to this in every way that it possibly can."

"I am lucky to be joining the Foundation at this time and I want to work closely with Gold Coast Health staff to increase the impact that the Foundation has on health research, education and equipment."

Kim brings a wealth of management and fundraising experience gained from running charities in the UK and Australia over the past 12 years. She has worked with and received training from some of the leading fundraisers in the world and has a passion for raising funds to support projects that make a difference to communities.

To get involved or to find out more, phone **5571 2150**, visit **www.gchfoundation.org.au** or email **denise@gchfoundation.org.au**

New Stroke Unit at Robina

Stroke patients can now get the care they need at Robina Hospital after a local stroke unit opened in January.

The four bed unit is housed in the Specialist Medical Unit and will give stroke patients increased input from the Allied Health multi-disciplinary team and specialist Neurology cover at Robina Hospital.

Gold Coast Health sees approximately 450 stroke patients per year and is one of the highest in the state. These patients have primarily been cared for by the Stroke Unit at Southport.

Director of Neurology, Dr Arman Sabet said stroke units have been proven to optimise patient outcomes.

"The opening of the local stroke unit at Robina will expand and enhance access to acute stroke care, for those in the southern end of South East Queensland which is a great benefit to the district."



The Stroke multidisciplinary team at the new Local Stroke Unit in SMU, Robina.

Good flow is the go

Twelve months on and over 9,000 patient admissions later, the one year old Robina Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) is already impressing and achieving greatness with a win at the October Health Roundtable Innovation awards.

Recognised for their efforts in 'Improving Care of Patients Moving into Wards', peers from across Australia and New Zealand were impressed by their innovations in National Emergency Access Targets (NEAT) and the MAU model of care; which is to reduce the patient load in the Emergency Department and provide safe and efficient patient care to medical patients that only need a short stay in hospital.

MAU self nominated for the award and was picked up by Helen Cooper and Paula Duffy after a presentation battle at the Sydney event.

Staff Specialist and Director of General Medicine, Dr Mark Forbes is excited about the win and is already focusing his attention on the next 12 months.

"After a very successful first 12 months, we look to continue improving our processes. The big job for the next year is the opening of a similar unit at GCUH while maintaining our impact at Robina," Dr Forbes said.

"The MAU is part of a district wide push to reach NEAT targets. It will not succeed

without all departments dealing with medical patients working toward safe, efficient patient care."

Visit www.healthroundtable.org for more information on the nominees, winners and their presentations.



The Robina MAU team excited with their recognition for good work in patient flow.

Make your wish count: donate

This years DonateLife Week is asking you to make your wish count.

The annual awareness week aims to encourage Australians to make an informed decision about becoming an organ and tissue donor and to ensure that family members know and support each others donation decisions and ties in with this year's theme of: Make your wish count. Discover, Decide and discuss organ and tissue donation.

Gold Coast Health's Regional Donor Coordinator, Amanda Gilbert said it is important to ask and know your family members wishes for organ and tissue donation.

"The majority of people (84%) are more motivated to decide about becoming an organ and tissue donor when they realise how few people can actually become organ donors," Ms Gilbert said.

"If you have decided to become an organ and tissue donor, share your decision with your loved ones so they can ensure your wish counts should the situation arise."

To make your wish count, you need to register your decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register and, most importantly, share your decision with your family and close friends.

For more information on DonateLife Week or organ donation, visit: www.donatelife.gov.au or email amanda_gilbert@health.qld.gov.au



Raising money boosts morale

Palm Beach Community Mental Health has used a worthy cause to build team morale while raising more than \$700 for Child Fund Australia in the process.

The idea began with the Continuing Care Team nurses and spread rapidly through the whole team. A 'thermometer' of funds raised was put on display to provide inspiration. Staff chose gifts they would like to purchase and could see what the money would buy in other places in the world.

Clinical nurse Sally Miller said it was supported by other teams and the total of \$724 purchased chickens, turkeys, sheep and goats. It was also enough buy 75 fruit trees, a bicycle, gardening tools, seeds, water filters and mosquito nets.

"These gifts will make a difference and change the lives of families all over the world," she said. The idea also succeeded in building morale, with a commitment to do it all again next year.

Patient positives

PATIENT 1

A big thankyou to the staff at Robina Hospital. A special thank you to Dr Ellen Walters and casualty short stay nurse Aaron. On the morning of 2.1.2013 I was admitted into the casualty and emergency department and I very much appreciated the professional treatment and care that I received from the moment I arrived.

Gold Coast Bulletin, 5 January 2013

PATIENT 2

We would like to pass on our heartfelt thanks to the staff of the emergency and ICU wards of the Gold Coast Hospital that looked after our son on the morning of 25.11.12 and following days. The dedication and compassion these people showed to our son and ourselves at this devastating time was truly amazing. The Gold Coast is very lucky to have such caring professionals to look after us at the time of an emergency!

Gold Coast Bulletin, 19 December 2012

PATIENT 3

Having lived on the Gold Coast for over 20 years, stories about the wait times at Gold Coast Hospital are well known. Well, on Monday this week we had occasion to take our son to emergency at Gold Coast Hospital. We were attended to immediately and taken into an emergency bed. Doctors and nurses quickly attended to our son. Drugs given and x-ray promptly arranged. At end of shift we were told what was happening and that another doctor would soon assess the situation. No less than consultant physician soon saw him and we were able to go. Job well done by staff in emergency at Gold Coast Hospital. Thank you.

Gold Coast Bulletin, 15 December 2012

Competition winners wrapped

The inaugural Gold Coast Christmas decorations competition was a resounding success with more than 70 nominations from wards, admin and community health areas.

Members of the Consumer Advisory Group had the difficult task of judging all the nominations and chose Payroll at Gold Coast Hospital and Renal Services at Robina Hospital as the winners.

Runners up were Medical Records, ECAS and Ward 9C, Clinical Records and Executive Administration reception (Robina Hospital).

More than 700 votes were received for the People's Choice Competition won by 6B (Southport) and Renal Dialysis Unit (Robina) with lucky drawer winners Anna-Louise Meyer and Jessica Ford.

Congratulations to all the winners and well done to everyone who participated.



The Payroll team at Gold Coast Hospital were winners along with Renal Services at Robina.



More than 20 Church of Christ volunteers brought Christmas cheer to patients on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as they delivered 200 hampers through the renal services area.



Director of Nursing Paula Duffy with Carina Anderson and Diana Grice from the Division of Medicine.

Christmas BBQ for staff

Staff celebrated the end of a busy year at the staff Christmas BBQs at Southport, Robina and Carrara in December. Staff feasted on approximately 1,015 sausages, 684 veggie patties, 126kg of coleslaw, 1,080 slices of fruit cake and washed it all down with 1,104 bottles of water.

Bedside audit gets results

Gold Coast Health has received outstanding preliminary results for the Queensland Bedside Audit conducted in October.

Facilitated by Clinical Governance, the state wide audit reports on key elements of the new National Safety and Quality Health service (NSQHS) Standards, including prevalence of pressure injury, assessment of risk for falls and malnutrition, patient identification and medication safety indicators.

The preliminary report results have been broken down to ward and facility levels which will be important for identifying where improvements can be made in the future.

Some of the preliminary results include:

- Gold Coast Health has a hospital acquired pressure injury prevalence rate of 9.6% Statewide Pressure Injury KPI target is 10%.
- Robina Rehab, Cardiology unit, Paediatric unit and Carrara geriatric unit all received 100% completion of Pressure injury risk assessment.
- Robina Acute Medical, Robina Medical Assessment unit, Cardiology unit and Robina Rehab all achieved 100% completion of falls risk assessments.
- Southport Acute Medical, Cardiology unit, Paediatric unit and Carrara Rehab unit all received >90% admission weights recorded.
- Renal unit, Robina Rehab and Cardiology unit all achieved >80% completion of Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) risk assessment.



Above: Speech Pathologists Penny Stabler, Chloe Walton and Dr Rachel Wenke are looking for participants to be part of their innovative research.

Innovative research into voice disorders

Speech Pathology and Ear Nose and Throat Services (ENT) are currently conducting an innovative research project investigating the effect of intensive treatment for people with voice disorders.

The project is comparing an intensive rehabilitation model versus traditional treatment to see the effect each model has on voice outcomes, among other measures. Voice disorders can have a marked negative impact on an individual, resulting in work loss, social withdrawal, and major disruptions to quality of life.

"This project is an exciting opportunity to explore an innovative new model of care in voice rehabilitation," Acting Director of Speech Pathology, Leah Coman said.

The project team are currently recruiting potential participants with a suspected functional voice disorder to take part in the study. Following an assessment by an Ear Nose Throat Specialist, treatment is provided by a qualified speech pathologist at Robina Hospital at no cost to the participant.

If you are aged between 18 and 80 years, have a suspected functional voice disorder, adequate hearing and no previous laryngeal surgery and are interested in finding more about the study, please contact Project Officer Rachel Wenke on 5519 8401 or Speech Pathologist Chloe Walton on 5668 5969 or email via Groupwise.

Club Red needs you

Gold Coast Hospital was invaded by storm troopers in December with an important message for staff: join Club Red.

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service Club Red Challenge is a competition open to companies and government departments across Australia and runs from 1 January until 12 December. Once an organisation is registered, staff can nominate for their donations to count towards the tally for the organisation's chance to win.

Queensland's Redback Garrison group recently joined the challenge and plan on doubling their 2012 blood and plasma donation figures.

Queensland Health has their own Club Red group which contributed to the saving of almost 200 lives in 2012.

To ensure your donation counts, ask when

you are next donating or visit: www.donateblood.com.au/who-can-give/club-red/join-group and put in Queensland Health and choose your division.

To arrange a group donation at the Southport or Robina Donor Centres or for any questions about donating phone Samantha on **5557 0200** or email sclifton@redcrossblood.org.au



Storm troopers invaded Gold Coast Hospital to promote Club Red.



The new car park offers secure and easy access parking for staff and visitors.

Set to open in March, the Secure car park at the Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) site will enable easy access to the main clinical building of GCUH via a suspended footbridge.

The commercial car park, which is best accessible via Hollows Way off Olsen Avenue, also includes secure bike parking with end of trip facilities and lockable storage.

Parking at GCUH will cost about \$7* per day for staff and up to a maximum of \$14* per day for all other patrons. Payment options for staff are currently being considered and will be communicated to all staff through a number of mediums prior to the move and opening of the hospital.

*These costs are indicative only, and subject to CPI increases since 2009.

Car park opens at GCUH

Above: Find out about all things GCUH by visiting www.health.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthealth



Above and top: Debbie demonstrates how the pneumatic tube system will work at GCUH.

Express delivery

Gold Coast Hospital's Central Specimen Reception Manager Debbie Elliot has demonstrated how the Gold Coast University Hospital's (GCUH) new pneumatic tube system will benefit staff and patients.

"So much time and energy has gone into the planning of pathology at GCUH in the past five years," Ms Elliot said.

"The biggest change to Pathology will be size of the pneumatic tube system," she said.

"Gold Coast Hospital presently has only one zone and six stations with Medical staff, Phlebotomy and volunteers currently delivering samples to the Laboratory for analysis.

"GCUH will have 63 stations throughout the hospital and eight zones into Pathology, with samples being sent directly from the wards.

"This will vastly improve the TATs (turnaround times) for patient results, as well as providing a superior service for clinical staff."

Debbie, a member of the Gold Coast Health team for over 15 years, said she's looking forward to the transition to GCUH.

Donation improves blood use

Gold Coast Health has something EXTRA - its own "Cell Saver Machine" to allow patients to use their own blood during an operation. The cell saver acts like a vacuum, sucking up lost blood and cleaning it so it can go back to the patient.

With a limited supply of blood to go around, conservation is the key when it comes to preparing for and performing surgeries. Transfusion CNC, Fiona Clark said the EXTRA machine helps to better manage blood supply.

"It is also very good for patient care, by ultimately reducing risks to our patients associated with having a blood transfusion," she said.

The Kingdom Hall Jehovah Witnesses presented a cheque for \$25,000 to purchase the machine and several staff have now been trained in its use.

"This has been one aspect of our strategic blood management plan that has been a combined effort from anaesthetics, surgery and pathology".

Currently the hospital is charged per machine use however with the purchase of our own machine the ongoing costs will be reduced by half.

"It is also now more likely to be used because it is easy to set up and more accessible."

The machine specifically targets surgeries used in operations when more than 10 per cent of blood is lost such as heavy trauma and repair of ruptured aortic aneurisms.



Gold Coast Health displays its new Cell Saver Machine, known as EXTRA, purchased with a \$25 000 community donation.

Grant to help solve child illness

Gold Coast Health has received a \$50,000 grant from the Queensland Emergency Medicine Research Foundation to study the health history of 3000 children from across the region in an effort to find out why so many end up in the emergency department.

In Australia, 13 per cent of all emergency presentations are from children under the age of five but there is little data that explains why certain patients with certain conditions present frequently, where others do not.

Dr Gerben Keijzers, Dr Julia Crilly, Prof Paul Scuffham, Dr Cate Cameron and Dr Rania Shibl will use an existing Griffith University study that has been following the health of children from birth since 2006.

The Environments for Healthy Living study run by Griffith's School of Medicine recruited pregnant mothers from the Gold Coast, Tweed Heads and Logan to monitor their children's health at various intervals throughout their life.

The research team will analyse the use of health care of each child, including how many times they went to the emergency department, were admitted to hospital, visited their GP or used medication and will



Dr Gerben Keijzers and Dr Julia Crilly, with Evelyn and Curtis Scott, are researching why children present to the ED. Photo courtesy of Gold Coast Bulletin.

focus initially on describing children with respiratory problems, injuries and infectious diseases.

Dr Keijzers said five to 10 per cent of children have asthma but some present to hospital more than others with this study hoping to give insight if there are particular factors that may predict this.

"If we start to find certain connections and we start to see trends, that may inform preventative health care strategies and policies, and change in service models," he said.

"At the moment we have a certain number of doctors and nurses (working in emergency) based on historical data, but that could be adjusted if we find new information."

The research team hope the information will be able to help them change the way the hospital system operates in order to prevent children having unnecessary trips to emergency.



Nominate a nurse today

Do you know a Gold Coast Health nurse who deserves recognition? Nominations are now open for Rotary Nurse of Year. Nomination forms are available from Gold Coast or Robina Hospitals, Carrara Health Centre or by phoning **5569 2335** or emailing **robinarotary@gmail.com**. Nominations close 5pm, Friday 19 April 2013 and the winner will be announced during International Nurses Day celebrations on 9 May.

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Have you got a story to share?

Submissions for the next edition are required by: **15 March 2013.**

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