

## Graduate nurses start their careers in Mackay region

Mackay Hospital and Health Service has welcomed 40 graduate nurses to start their careers at the Base Hospital and in rural facilities.

Nursing Director for Education Leane Christie said the new nurses were mostly graduates from CQ University and James Cook University.

Dr Christie said MHHS was delighted to offer an increased number of places this year, up from 37 in 2014.

“What is particularly exciting this year is that a large part of their orientation takes place in our new Skills Centre,” she said.

The Medical Education and Research team has moved to a brand new purpose-built skills centre as part of the Mackay Base Hospital redevelopment.

The new facilities is a training location for all health disciplines and allows the HHS to create more opportunities for combined training such as medical and nursing.

“The new facility has doubled the opportunities to encourage learning in a safe environment that imitates that the actual ward/ critical care area in the hospital, she said.

She said 11 of the new recruits would work in rural facilities including Sarina, Dysart, Moranbah, Collinsville, Clermont and Proserpine.

A program to help staff rural hospitals is now a permanent fixture after a successful trial last year.

Dr Christie said three nurses had been appointed to rural reliever post graduate positions.

“These nurses are available to work in rural hospitals to cover staff absences either through planned leave or sick leave.

“They will slot in when there are staff absences from either planned leave or emergency situations. This may be from a few weeks to a couple of months – really depends on the facility needs,” she said.

“Creating the designated rural relievers positions means we can avoid using agency nurses which is costly. These nurses are part of the Mackay HHS and will be familiar with all of our facilities so they will be able to step in to positions very easily.

“They are looking forward to becoming parts of these smaller communities and will no doubt become familiar faces,” she said.

The majority of the new nurses are no strangers to Mackay Base Hospital having completed placements here as a student.

“They have enjoyed their placements and we have received good feedback from their supervisors so have been happy to offer them permanent positions.”

**ENDS**

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