



SCLMA **President's Message** Dr Jon Harper

SCLMA CLINICAL MEETING FOR 2025 -
THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2025



Happy New Year!

For some reason I am feeling optimistic about 2025. Although, when I scroll through the news, I am not sure why. I think it might be because the number "2025" sounds really futuristic. When I write the date I find it strangely comforting as it prompts fond childhood memories of watching science fiction on television in the 1980s.

And is 2025 as futuristic as it should be? Well, yes and no. I am a little disappointed that my car does not yet fly, and that I can't cure all my patients by slowly moving a small blue light over the affected area.

On the other hand, in the blink of a byte Artificial Intelligence (AI) has gone from science fiction to widespread adoption. I cannot imagine what AI will bring in 12 months time - I suppose I can just ask ChatGPT to imagine for me.

As generative as AI can be, it cannot make babies. On a recent trip to Japan, I was fascinated to learn more about the complex issue of Japan's declining population and low birth rate.

This has been a long-standing trend but, with no change in birth rates, the clock is ticking (albeit ticking quite slowly) to no new babies in 700 years. Of more immediate concern to the Japanese medical profession, is the increasing relative population of older people.

Almost 30% of the population are aged over 65, and 10% are aged over 80. Many of these are expected to live into their nineties and beyond. The Japanese health system is highly regarded but its lack of investment in connected, community-based primary care is starting to bite. Sound familiar?

I am looking forward to another great year of SCLMA clinical education meetings. The calendar is filling up nicely with a number of interesting speakers and clinical content.

I am also excited to announce the appointment of the new SCLMA administrator, Maryanne Casey, who will be taking over from Jo Bourke.

Having worked in several specialist clinics on the coast, Maryanne brings a wealth of administration experience and professional connections.

Jon Harper
2/2/2025

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The Sunshine Coast Local Medical Association welcomes contributions from members, especially "Letters to the Editor".

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Highlights

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MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

Deadline Friday 7 MARCH 2025

Our circulation via email, post and courier
It reaches more than 1,500 recipients!

Email: admin@sclma.com.au

We welcome new content - case studies, local news and photos.

If you are a new member, please send in a short bio and a photo to introduce yourself.

NOTE: We have changed to digital-only newsletter distribution

ALL Newsletters are posted to our website
<https://www.sclma.com.au>



ARE YOU A MEMBER?

If you are not a member please complete the application form available on the website:

www.sclma.com.au

You will need two proposers to sign your application form.

If this is a problem, come along to a monthly clinical meeting to introduce yourself.

Email: admin@sclma.com.au

Are you listed on the Member Directory on our website?

Are your details correct?

Directory form available on the website.

www.sclma.com.au





Supporting Queensland doctors,
creating better health.

AMA QUEENSLAND UPDATE



AMA Queensland CEO Dr Brett Dale and President Dr Nick Yim

As we enter 2025, we do so with a continued focus on advocacy for doctors, patients and Queensland communities. Specifically, we're prioritising reform from the ground up when it comes to accessing healthcare and addressing our medical workforce shortage.

Few health issues have been left in 2024, with discussions surrounding physician's assistants and water fluoridation already back in political discourse.

FREE FLU VACCINE CONTINUES

We've started the year with a win with the Queensland Government's early announcement that it will continue to fund

the annual free influenza vaccination program for all Queenslanders in 2025.

For the past three years, Queensland has led the nation in making flu jabs free, and we are pleased to see the new government continue Queensland's leadership this year.

The Deputy Director-General has since provided details regarding this year's rollout of the program, including its commencement date of 1 March 2025. As we receive further information, we will be updating members [via our website](#).

We continue to call on the state government to make this program permanent, similar to the RSV and meningococcal vaccines, and to advocate for the influenza vaccine to be made free for all Australians under the National Immunisation Program.



[Read the media release](#)

NEW GENERATION OF DOCTORS

This year approximately 900 new interns kickstarted their career on the frontline, bolstering Queensland's medical workforce.

This year's intake is a five per cent increase on last year, as expected with Queensland's population growth and the urgency to fix our health workforce shortage.

AMA Queensland congratulates all new doctors on their years of hard work, study and training, and applauds the passion and dedication it takes to reach this milestone.

This year's intern intake is the largest in Queensland's history, but we still have a long way to go to meet demand and the state government's goal of 46,000 new healthcare workers by 2032.

We look forward to working on behalf of all new Queensland interns to support them with the inevitable challenges, and with Queensland Health to ensure we take the best care of these future medical leaders.



[Read the media release](#)





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WORKFORCE WORKING GROUP

The health sector is currently experiencing the highest turnover since the peak of COVID-19 in 2020, with rural and remote regions suffering the most at a turnover rate of 9.5 per cent – five per cent higher than in metropolitan areas.

To respond to this turnover and meet the increasing demand, it is projected that workforce will need to increase by 30.3 per cent by 2032.

This is a complex issue requiring multifaceted solutions, which is why AMA Queensland has established its new Workforce Working Group. Its purpose is to help guide government policies directed at attracting and retaining Queensland's health workforce.

We need collaborative teams, reform of funding models and improved work incentives and conditions to attract and retain doctors in areas of shortage, but we must also change the ways we do and think about our work.

We are confident our Workforce Working Group members can lean on their frontline experience to develop a range of profession-led solutions that will provoke a deeper discussion about our workforce challenges and options than we've been brave enough to have to date.

The group commenced on Thursday 16 January and began working to provide advice in the lead up to the Queensland Budget in June 2025.



FLUORIDATED WATER

As local Queensland councils continue to remove or abstain from water fluoridation, we continue the fight against misinformation and for community health.

The decision goes against decades of scientific evidence and abandons vulnerable people who cannot afford dental care or healthy food, and we're already seeing a rise in dental infections, pain and lost time from school and work as a result.

We're also concerned that the increasing lack of fluoridated water supply in regional and rural communities is furthering the health divide between metropolitan and regional areas.

Before 2012, 90 per cent of Queensland had fluoride in its water supply. Since the state government legislated it to be a local government responsibility, Queensland has dropped to 70 per cent.



AMA Queensland and the Australian Dental Association Queensland have written a joint letter to the relevant Ministers and all councils in Queensland, raising concerns about the increasing prevalence and severity of oral disease, particularly among children.

You can read the correspondence and replies [here](#).



[Read the media release](#)



[Read the media release](#)

ama.com.au/qld





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PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT PROPOSAL

On Friday 3 January Director-General David Rosengren shared his approach for meeting Queensland's growing health needs, including flagging possible increased use of physician's assistants.

While it's clear he recognises the critical need to bolster the medical workforce, we are concerned about this approach.

Specifically, physician's assistants pose risks for patient safety and our medical workforce through reduced training and supervision opportunities for our junior doctors.

There is also no current training system within Australia to produce physician's assistants and we would be recruiting an unknown skill set that is not registered nor regulated by Ahpra.

Increasing concerns from other overseas jurisdictions including the NHS have recently triggered a review into the safety and efficacy of the physician's assistant role, and no decision should be made until that information is available.

Physician's assistants are not a substitute for medical officers, and a review of workforce data and clinical evidence must occur prior to its implementation.



[Read the media
release](#)

BULK BILLING

A recent report reinforces what doctors and patients have been saying for years – that Medicare rebates are too low to support bulk billing.

We know most practices can no longer bulk bill and cover costs like wages, electricity and rent, leaving many patients with large out of pocket fees. So, it's alarming but unsurprising to see the number of Australians putting off seeing their doctor rise due to continuous cost increases.



While the figures show Queensland patients are paying a similar gap to the national average, they don't show the full cost of low Medicare rebates. This cost is seen in increasing rates of preventable diseases like diabetes, heart conditions and poor mental health, leading to increasing costs to our hospitals and broader health system.



[Read more](#)

When patients can't access affordable health care, particularly for preventive health, they delay seeing a doctor or go without much-needed medications. This leads to delayed or missed diagnoses and avoidable hospital admissions.

We continue to call on the Australian Government to increase Medicare rebates so patients can get the health care they need from their trusted GP.

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS

The latest TikTok trend encouraging Australians to tan during high levels of UV to achieve an extreme aesthetic is glamorising the dangerous culture of sun tanning.

Australia's UV levels are like no other. Just fifteen minutes in the sun can begin to damage skin, increasing the risk of developing skin cancer – the most common cancer among young Australians.



[Read the media
release](#)

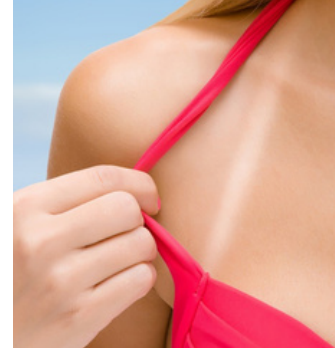


130
YEARS
1894-2024

*Supporting Queensland doctors,
creating better health.*

Despite the known dangers of excess sun exposure, the hashtag #sunburnttanlines highlights thousands of videos viewed by more than 200 million users promoting the UV index as a tool to reach their “perfect shade” rather than a warning of its potential health damages.

We are seeing so many people in our older generations suffer the consequences of a lack of public knowledge about sun safety. We now know better, which is why we’re urging Australians to make sensible choices in their younger year to avoid adding to that statistic later in life. Social pressures should never prevail health, and we encourage every Australian to refresh their knowledge of the true dangers of sun exposure.



CDT UPDATE

2024 was an exciting year for the CDT!

The committee completed a number of projects including the annual Resident Hospital Health Check, their first Ward Call Survey report, and their first ever sustainably focused and carbon neutral Junior Doctors’ Conference.

The Resident Hospital Health Check saw a 15 per cent increase in participation and demonstrated powerful findings with concerns around burnout and occupational safety.

The CDT is pleased to announce that they have received responses and plan to meet with multiple hospital and health services across Queensland in the coming weeks to months to respond to the concerns highlighted in the survey.

Applications are now open for the 2025 CDT committee. If you’re an AMA Queensland member who is passionate about supporting your peers, advocating for change and being part of something bigger than yourself, the CDT would love to have you. Hospital representative roles and special interest group positions are available, in addition to the Chair and Deputy Chair role.



[Read the full update](#)



[Nominate now](#)

MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The AMA Queensland Foundation offers its annual Medical Student Scholarships to financially disadvantaged students studying an MBBS course or equivalent at a university in Queensland.



[Read more](#)

Applications have now opened for 2025, and we encourage all students seeking support to continue studying and achieve their dream of becoming a doctor to apply. Scholarships of \$10,000 paid in two equal instalments will be awarded to up to three students this year.

AMA QUEENSLAND AGM &
DINNER FOR THE
PROFESSION

◆ SAVE THE DATE ◆
THE STAR CASINO
FRIDAY 30 MAY



ama.com.au/qld





Clinical Societies Sunshine Coast learning and networking February-March events

Join Country to Coast, QLD for the first round of Clinical Society events for 2025: Choice and Change – Support Healthy Ageing for Women events!

The 2024 landmark Commonwealth Senate Enquiry into menopause and perimenopause highlighted key areas to improve support and healthcare for ageing women, noting that menopause – experienced by over half the population – has been poorly understood for too long. These findings echo priority actions in the Queensland Women's and Girls' Health Strategy 2023, which identifies sexual and reproductive health as key areas for reform.

Who should attend?

Health professionals across the region are encouraged to attend. You'll network alongside experts and peers as CCQ delves into clinical insights on maximising health during the perimenopausal and menopausal transition, and explore opportunities to develop and embed local services supporting women's healthy ageing.

Learning objectives:

1. Explore data to examine the current state of women's health with age, particularly the impact of the menopausal transition.
2. Develop an understanding of evidence-based advice on lifestyle and healthy ageing to incorporate into consultations relating to menopause.
3. Describe the benefits and risks of menopausal therapy including hormonal and non-hormonal options.
4. Examine the role of integrated multidisciplinary care, particularly the role of a women's health physiotherapist, in driving better outcomes for women around menopause.
5. Explore opportunities to develop and embed best-practice service models in local communities.

Earn RACGP and ACRRM CPD points – dinner and refreshments also provided. Don't miss this opportunity to support women's healthy ageing in your community.

Dinner and refreshments provided.

Register now:

- [Gympie - 27th February 2025](#)
- [Noosa - 4th March 2025](#)

[Nambour - 5th March 2025](#)

[Caloundra - 6th March 2025](#)

Learn more: c2coast.org.au/clinical-societies

SCLMA – February 2025 WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNSHINE COAST HEALTH?

Sunshine Coast Health welcomes next generation of local doctors



78 medical interns joined Sunshine Coast Health this month

The future faces of our region's medical industry have hit the wards of Sunshine Coast Health's hospitals, over years of study and training.

Earlier this month Sunshine Coast Health welcomed 78 medical interns who are starting in their very first roles as doctors.

Executive Director Medical Services Dr Marlene Pearce said Sunshine Coast Health offers a comprehensive program for the doctors that will successfully lead them to gaining their general registration.

"Interns will rotate through a variety of specialty areas that will include medicine, emergency, surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, and they will also rotate to some of our other facilities in the district, not just our university teaching hospital but our rural facilities as well," Dr Pearce said.

"Our interns and all of our doctors in training are a key part of our workforce - they work with the specialist consultants to deliver team-based care across our facilities, and as they're rotating through the different areas, they're gaining skills and experience to equip them to be excellent, well-rounded doctors in the future."



GP auto-population is here – streamlining outpatient letters



Sunshine Coast Health's Digital Health team were key players in the project

Sunshine Coast Health is proving to be ahead of the game in the digital health world, with GP auto-population now live in Fluency for Transcription. Our health service is the first health service in Queensland to implement this feature.

What's new?

- GP details now pre-populate in outpatient letters.
- Letters reach the GP's inbox within an hour.

18 months ago, this idea was raised in a medical directors meeting; it was noted that doctors couldn't easily access GP details because they didn't have HBCIS access.

This wasn't an easy fix, but thanks to the hard work of Digital Health, Digital Intake, Telecommunications, and Clinical Information Services, it's become a reality. Doctors have noted how they love the time savings and boost to patient communication.

Sunshine Coast Health's first junior doctor undertakes rural GP program



Landsborough Medical Centre Practice Manager Andrea Blackmore and Sunshine Coast Health Residential Medical Officer Dr Jessie Da Cunha Costa

For the first time, a Sunshine Coast Health junior doctor is undertaking a rural general practice (GP) community clinic placement on the Sunshine Coast, which will offer her a glimpse into a career as a rural GP.

Sunshine Coast Health Residential Medical Officer Dr Jessie Da Cunha Costa was welcomed this month by the team at Landsborough Medical Centre, as part of the John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program (JFPDP).

Dr Da Cunha Costa said when looking at health services to progress her medical career, she was drawn to those offering a GP placement.

"I had always considered becoming a GP, but you rarely get any of that experience as a junior doctor as there aren't many hospitals that offer a rotation in a GP practice," she said.

Dr Da Cunha Costa is eager to learn as much as possible throughout her 13-week placement.

"I'm particularly interested in learning the mechanics of how a GP practice works, the financial side of things and everything a GP does from receiving a patient with a discharge summary from the hospital to the patients who've attended the practice for decades, doing care plans, skin excisions, that sort of thing."

Landsborough Medical Centre Practice Manager Andrea Blackmore said the clinic was proud to be investing in the education and training of the next generation of GPs.

Introducing lymphoedema services at Cancer Care Noosa



Mr James Chapman

Nurse Practitioner &
Lymphoedema Specialist
NP, MN, GradDipCritCare

Lymphoedema, characterised by swelling due to lymph fluid build-up, can affect anyone undergoing cancer treatments, particularly those involving surgery or radiation. It is a largely misunderstood and often under-recognised disease, with 1 in 5 women treated for breast cancer developing breast cancer-related lymphoedema. Men are also susceptible following treatment for prostate cancer, the second most common cancer affecting men worldwide. For many, it's not just a physical challenge—it's an emotional and social one as well. Many people affected by it struggle to find appropriate, ongoing care and this gap in healthcare inspired me to establish The Lymph Lab. The Lymph Lab's mission is to provide comprehensive lymphoedema care that is both accessible and affordable. Our Nurse Practitioners (NPs) play an integral role, providing expert clinical support in diagnosing and managing lymphoedema and lipoedema. They work closely with patients, GPs, and specialists to develop personalised treatment plans that blend the latest medical techniques with practical, everyday strategies. The NPs' ability to assess, educate, and guide patients through their care ensures a holistic and patient-centred approach.

Our services utilise a holistic approach, complemented by the latest evidence-based research and technology, including:

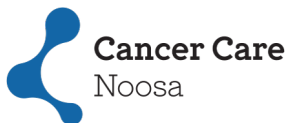
- Bioimpedance Spectroscopy (LDEX)
- Sequential Bio-compression
- Manual Lymphatic Drainage Massage
- Prescription Garment Measurement, Supply, and Fitting
- Adjunct Therapies, including pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches
- Tailored Education

The Lymph Lab is a place where people affected by lymphoedema can feel seen, heard, and empowered. Our team is dedicated to bridging the care gap, ensuring that individuals can access the resources they need to live healthier, more comfortable lives with lymphoedema.

Visit www.thelymphlab.com.au or email admin@thelymphlab.net for further information.

James Chapman now offers his lymphoedema services from Cancer Care Noosa, 36-40 Hofmann Drive, Noosaville. Lymph Lab locations include: Noosa, Caboolture, Birtinya and Bundaberg.

Referrals are not required; all consults attract an MBS rebate and a small out of pocket fee applies.



Cancer Care
Noosa

Now Open!



Cancer Care Noosa, the regions only comprehensive oncology centre, will offer:

- Radiation oncology
- Medical oncology
- Oncology pharmacy
- Clinical trials and research
- Pathology
- Local specialists you know and trust
- Lymphoedema nurse practitioner clinic
- Specialist consulting
- Easy access and 150 car parks
- Affordable cancer care
- Coming in 2025: Noosa Breast Clinic and comprehensive medical imaging services

Cancer Care Noosa
36-40 Hofmann Drive
Noosaville QLD 4566
07 5293 7200
admin@cancercarenoosa.com.au

A better way, a brighter outcome



Sunshine Coast Local Medical Association
Inc PO Box 549 Cotton Tree QLD 4558



www.sclma.com.au



SUNSHINE COAST
RADIOLOGY

Now
Open in
Noosa!

New State-of-the-Art Noosa Clinic Now Open!

Sunshine Coast Radiology is excited to announce the opening of our brand new clinic at Noosa Civic Medihub, 28 Eenie Creek Road, Noosaville.

As part of our commitment to delivering exceptional care across the Sunshine Coast, we are proud to extend our service offering into Noosa, whilst also introducing our first digital PET/CT scanning service.

Boasting state-of-the-art facilities and all-new diagnostic imaging technology, together with our expert radiologists and friendly team, we look forward to providing our dedicated care to your patients.

Our services include X-ray, ultrasound, interventional procedures, dental imaging, CT, and our PET/CT service, improving healthcare access and outcomes for patients in the northern Sunshine Coast region.



X-RAY



ULTRASOUND



CT SCAN



PET-CT SCAN

Coming soon

Referrer enquiries:

Please contact your local Referrer Relationship Specialist, Tremain Permewan
Email: tremain@scradiology.com.au



Noosa Civic Medihub
28 Eenie Creek Road, Noosaville

📞 1300 MY SCAN
1300 697 226

🌐 scradiology.com.au
✉️ bookings@scradiology.com.au

BUDERIM
12-14 King Street

MAROOCHYDORE
60 Wisers Road

NAMBOUR
29 Ann Street

SCUPH
3 Doherty Street

SELANGOR PRIVATE
62 Netherton Street

WARANA
1 Main Drive

NOOSA
28 Eenie Creek Road

Excellence in Diagnostics



Sunshine Coast Local Medical Association Inc
PO Box 549 Cotton Tree QLD 4558



www.sclma.com.au

GP UPDATE

NOOSA HOSPITAL
NAMBOUR SELANGOR PRIVATE HOSPITAL
RAMSAY CLINIC CALOUNDRA
SUNSHINE COAST UNIVERSITY PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Ramsay
Health Care

FEATURED SPECIALISTS

Dr Chandan Jadhav

Plastic Surgeon (*Nambour, SCUPH & Noosa*)

Interests: Breast, head & neck, skin cancer reconstructions and aesthetic surgery.

Contact:

Plastic Surgery Queensland
Suite 19/5 Innovation Parkway, Birtinya

E: info@psqsc.com.au

P: 07 5437 9333

M: 0449 925 922

[Plastic Surgery Queensland | Experienced Plastic Surgeons](#)



Dr Amy O'Connor

Plastic Surgeon (*SCUPH & Noosa*)

Interests: Facial skin cancer resection and reconstruction.

Dr O'Connor is returning to private practice in February and is now accepting new referrals via medical objects & email. Dr O'Connor is excited to be back and looks forward to reconnecting with you and continuing to provide care and support for our patients.

Contact:

Noosa Private Hospital, 111 Goodchap Street, Noosaville &
Suite 1, Ramsay Consulting Suites, 3 Doherty Street, Birtinya

E: admin@dramyoconnor.com.au

P: 07 5228 0900

[Excellence and Integrity in Plastic Surgery | Dr Amy O'Connor](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS – CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the Mix: *Plastic Surgery, skin cancer care, digestive health*

When: Wednesday 26 February 2025 - 6pm

Where: Noosa Boathouse, 194 Gympie Terrace, Noosaville Qld 4567

Presenters: [Dr Chandan Jadhav](#), [Dr Jazlyn Read](#), [Dr Benedict Mackay](#)



REGISTER

For any GP Liaison matters, contact:

Meah Whelan - Nambour Selangor Private Hospital & Noosa Hospital

M: 0427 199 202 | **E:** WhelanM@ramsayhealth.com.au

Jemma Burford - Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital & Caloundra Private Day Hospital

M: 0427 327 321 | **E:** burfordj@ramsayhealth.com.au

ramsayhealth.com.au

Ramsay
Health Care



Sunshine Coast Local Medical Association
Inc PO Box 549 Cotton Tree QLD 4558



www.sclma.com.au



Monthly update

Shane Mitchell, General Manager

E: shane.mitchell@uhealth.com.au

P: 07 5430 3260

Meet our new VMPs



Dr Travis Rule

Gynaecologist,
obstetrician and fertility
specialist



Dr Sophia Ly

Radiation oncologist

To search all of our doctors, visit
buderimprivatehospital.com.au

New practice address for Dr Roderick McMurray

Dr Roderick McMurray is a
specialist general surgeon with
qualifications in breast and
endocrine surgery.

He is now consulting from:

King Street Specialists
118 King St Buderim QLD 4556

Phone: 1300 280 085

Fax: 07 5302 6456

Email: admin@drmcmurray.com.au



Buderim brings Project SEARCH to the Sunshine Coast

Project SEARCH is an immersive work-based internship program that allows young people with disability to expand their experience and develop their skills while increasing their confidence and self-esteem in a supportive, tailored and structured real-world environment.

Our first team of Project SEARCH interns commenced at Buderim in late 2024 and we look forward to seeing them grow as they become immersed in a range of working environments with us over the next 12 months.

If you know someone whose potential needs an opportunity so they can shine, please contact projectsearch@ucommunity.org.au or visit www.unitingcareqld.com.au



Proudly part of



Acute Admissions: (07) 5430 3314
buderimprivatehospital.com.au





Sunshine Coast Neurosurgery is the specialist practice of Dr Stephen Byrne, who has worked on the Sunshine Coast since 2017.

Dr Byrne MBChB, MRCSEd, FRACS underwent his neurosurgical training in Melbourne, Adelaide & New Zealand before gaining his Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

In fact, Stephen is the only fellowship-trained spine surgeon on the coast endorsed by both the Australian Orthopaedic Association and the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia.

At Sunshine Coast Neurosurgery all patients receive personalised care using the latest techniques to deliver world-class healthcare. We offer advice on surgical and non-surgical strategies of care.

Please feel free to call Sunshine Coast Neurosurgery to discuss any neurosurgical issue and we look forward to helping your patients along the road to recovery.

List of Services

Sunshine Coast Neurosurgery use their extensive experience to treat many common conditions such as:

- Cervical and lumbar degenerative conditions
- Brain tumours
- Spine tumours
- Pituitary tumours
- Chiari malformations
- Radiofrequency Ablations

Plus they have a specialist interest in minimally invasive brain and spine surgery.

P: 07 5437 7256 F: 07 5302 6475

E: info@scneuro.com.au

W: www.scneurosurgery.com.au

Suite 104, Vitality Village,
5 Discovery Court, Birtinya Qld 4575



GenesisCare, Sunshine Coast: Where compassion meets contemporary care

Care is what we do, every day. Care is not just our job, it's our responsibility. We are a proudly Australian-run cancer care provider, with over 30,000 people each year entrusting us with their care.

At GenesisCare, we aim to deliver a personalised care experience provided by a team of compassionate healthcare professionals. Our team of radiation oncologists have experience across a range of adult tumour types.



Dr Bradley Wong
Radiation Oncologist

Skin cancer, prostate cancer, urological cancers, breast cancer, benign conditions, and palliative radiation therapy



Dr David Schlect
Radiation Oncologist

Neurological, brain and spine, lung, and skin cancers, rare tumours, sarcoma and benign conditions



Dr Sophia Ly
Radiation Oncologist

Gastrointestinal (upper and lower), lung, breast and palliative radiation therapy



On the Sunshine Coast, our services offered include:

- Personalised care, treating the individual, not just the condition
- Radiation therapy for most adult cancer types
- Non-invasive treatment for non-melanoma skin cancer
- Rapid access to radiation therapy treatment in palliative setting
- Treatment for specific benign conditions e.g Dupuytren's disease, plantar fasciitis, plantar fibromatosis and keloid scars
- Stereotactic radiation therapy for cranial, lung, spine, prostate, bone, soft tissue, and liver lesions
- Patient transport services Gympie to Noosa route (for eligible patients)
- Access to allied health services on site
- On site breast cancer specialist nurse
- Breast Cancer Wellness and Survivorship Clinic

Treatment centres:

GenesisCare, Buderim
10 King Street

Tel: (07) 5374 8100 | Fax: (07) 5374 8110
ReceptionOncologyBuderim@genesiscare.com

GenesisCare, Noosa
90 Goodchap Street

Tel: (07) 5377 2200 | Fax: (07) 5377 2210
ReceptionOncologyNoosa@genesiscare.com

Outreach consulting clinic:

Gympie fortnightly clinic – Dr Bradley Wong

Disclaimer: Any procedure including treatments involving radiation carry risks, including skin irritation and associated pain. Before proceeding with a referral for treatment, patients should be advised to seek a second opinion from an appropriately qualified health practitioner. As in any medical procedure, patient experiences and outcomes will vary.

genesiscare.com



GP Liaison

Your hospital connection, together we can deliver better healthcare.

Dr Edwin Kruijs and Dr Michelle Johnston



Tips for clinicians referring to Sunshine Coast public hospital facilities

To help make referring to the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service as seamless as possible for you and your patients, we've put together the below tips.



Be aware of Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC)

All Queensland Health facilities use Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) to triage referrals. The CPC, sometimes referred to as 'referral criteria', are developed and updated by hospital clinicians and GPs. These criteria are used for timely & accurate triage and assist with comprehensive specialist review of your patient at the initial hospital appointment.

Checking HealthPathways or GP Smart Referrals templates to ensure what CPC information is required before sending your patient for initial investigations can streamline the referral process. CPC can also be found online: [Clinical Prioritisation Criteria \(health.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-prioritisation-criteria).

"GP Smart Referrals gives an indication of the likely triage category, based on information provided."

Discussing the likely triage category with your patient at the time of referral can help to set expectations. GP Smart Referrals gives an indication of the likely triage category, based on information provided.

Please include a clear statement of intent



While the CPC tend to lean us toward a more templated approach to referrals, a few words to summarise the main intent of the referral sets context for the triaging clinician to ensure the most appropriate pathway to care is selected.

Useful statements may include e.g., diagnostic clarification, management advice, request to upgrade triage category, earlier appointment required, continuation referral beyond 12 months, elective surgery upgrade request. GP Smart Referrals users can use the free text box for this purpose.

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Include essential referral information

All CPC include “essential” and “additional” referral information. This information can be found on HealthPathways or within the condition-specific templates of GP Smart Referrals. CPC can also be found online: [Clinical Prioritisation Criteria \(health.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-prioritisation-criteria).

Referrals that don't include essential information will unfortunately be returned, as having this information available at time of triage is imperative to safe risk stratification and expedites clinical decisions at the first outpatient appointment.

“Referrals that don't include essential information will be returned.”

This also applies if you are making the referral at the request of another specialist, including in situations where a private specialist also works in the public sector. Attaching correspondence from the specialist does not necessarily meet the essential CPC referral criteria. Referrals must also contain current contact and demographic patient details, including identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Please ensure this information is current in your practice management software as it will be pulled automatically into electronic referral templates.



Clinical override of referral information

We recognise there are circumstances where patients are unable to access or undergo the required investigations. If certain information, e.g. investigations, are contraindicated for a particular patient or not available, e.g. in a rural setting, please explain why the information has not been included.

GP Smart Referral users should fill out the 'clinical override' text box for this purpose. Please note, if there is no valid reason for not including essential referral information, the clinical override request may be ignored, and the referral declined.

Referring doctor responsibility

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service and the referring clinician share responsibility for the care of a patient following referral and prior to the first available hospital appointment. Triage is made using the information provided in the referral.

If the situation changes and you feel the patient requires more urgent review, please send an updated referral with supporting information requesting a possible upgrade. Please discuss this with your patient and ensure they are aware to re-present to you if their condition worsens.



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Avoid sending duplicate referrals

While it may seem prudent to send a referral through multiple times over different platforms (e.g. post and fax, or fax and electronic) to ensure it is received, this creates significant delays in referral processing.

Duplicate documents need to be linked and checked line by line for variations. Immediate electronic confirmation of referral receipt and referral tracking are a benefit of using GP Smart Referrals. When opening GP Smart Referrals, the dashboard in the patient view shows the status of all referrals for a practitioner and all practitioners in the same practice (select 'practice view' in the right top corner).

Other referral methods do not enable receipt acknowledgement. If required, **you may call the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health GP Priority Line 1300 358 225** regarding any submitted documents, including additional referral information. Unless otherwise specified, all additional information received for a patient who has a waiting referral, will be managed as a 'request to upgrade'.

Please contact the *GP Liaison Unit* for any other queries, concerns, or feedback. Phone: 07 5202 3822. Email: SCHS-GPLO@health.qld.gov.au

Urgent Referrals



While it is not recommended to mark all referrals as urgent as this does not speed up processing or waiting times, it is important to mark certain referrals as 'urgent' to facilitate priority triage.

"It is important to mark certain referrals as 'urgent' to facilitate priority triage."

GP Smart Referrals (GPSR) has a tick box that can be selected to mark a referral as urgent. When using other referral systems, please clearly mention the word 'URGENT' at the top of the referral.

Examples are fractures (fracture clinic), certain cancers and diagnosed incomplete or missed miscarriages (in the latter case please also call the Early Pregnancy Assessment Service on 07 5202 7241. For more information, see HealthPathways).

Please call the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health GP Priority Line 1300 358 225 if there are concerns about referral urgency.



Viewing accurate outpatient waiting times

To assist with consumer expectations and informed decision making, the current wait times for each category at the selected specialty and facility are visible on GP Smart Referrals (GPSR).

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“Current wait times for each category at the selected specialty and facility are visible on GP Smart Referrals.”

After selecting the Condition and Specialty as well as Service/Location in a GPSR template, the specialist outpatient waiting times for category 1, 2 and 3 urgencies become visible for easy reference and/or discussion with the patient.

Parking a GPSR referral



Sending additional information such as investigations results separately at a later stage is generally not preferred as there is a risk it will not be linked to the original referral.

For this reason, when writing a referral in GP Smart Referrals, the document can be ‘parked’ (saved for later) to allow for any additional information such as investigations results to be collected and included in the referral at a later stage.

Parked referrals can be found in the patient view screen under the tab ‘Parked requests’ after opening GP Smart Referrals.

Attaching different file types

GP Smart Referrals allows the following file types: pdf, docx, png, jpg, jpeg, gif, zip, html, txt, rtf, dcm, dicome, tif, tiff, htm. There is a 5MB per file attachment limit up to a total of 25MB per referral. Files can be attached from the investigations and imaging section in the clinical software or from the computer.



Copying a declined referral in GPSR

When a referral has been declined, GP Smart Referrals allows for copying of the original referral for the purpose of re-submitting with additional referral information attached or included.

Assistance with GP Smart Referrals



Self-help resources are available on the Smart Referrals webpage: www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/innovation/smart-referrals/smart-referrals-resources

Phone Support: 1300 478 439

Email support: QH-SmartReferrals@health.qld.gov.au

Please contact the GP Liaison Unit for any other queries, concerns, or feedback

Phone: 07 5202 3822

Email: SCHHS-GPLO@health.qld.gov.au

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Queensland
Government



[Sunshine Coast Local Medical Association](http://www.sclma.com.au)
Inc PO Box 549 Cotton Tree QLD 4558



www.sclma.com.au

Foreign Resident CGT Withholding Tax Clearance Certificates will be Required for All Property Sales with Contracts dated 1/1/2025 or later



What is a Foreign Resident CGT Withholding (FRCGW) Tax Clearance Certificate? FRCGW Tax was brought in to support the collection of tax liabilities owed by non-residents selling Australian property and has been in place since 1 July 2016. This regime places the responsibility on the purchasers of Taxable Australian Real Property to withhold and remit tax directly to the ATO if the seller is either a foreign resident or an Australian Resident who has not provided a clearance certificate at the time of settlement.

Taxable Australian Real Property includes vacant land, buildings, and residential and commercial property but also extends to a lease over real property in Australia and indirect Australian real property interests, where the holder has a right to occupy land or buildings on the land.

What's changing? For contracts dated 1 January 2025, Australian resident sellers of property will need to apply for a foreign residence CGT withholding tax clearance certificate regardless of the sale value of the property. (Previously, it was only applicable to property to be sold for \$750,000 or more).

If a clearance certificate is not provided by the settlement, the purchaser will be required to withhold 15% tax (up from 12.5%), remit this to the ATO, and the seller will only recoup these funds after lodgement of their next tax return.

Please note that if the seller is a foreign resident for tax purposes, they may be eligible to apply for a variation notice instead.

Points to note:

- A clearance certificate is required for each seller on the title. i.e. If a property is jointly owned, each party will need to apply for and provide a clearance certificate.
- Applications are typically processed fairly quickly, especially when the seller is an individual; however, where there are other entities, trusts, and trustee companies without TFNs/ABNs involved, it can take up to 28 business days.
- The certificates are valid for 12 months, and the application can be made PRIOR to a contract being signed, so please consider applying for a clearance certificate before advertising your property for sale. The clearance certificate applies to the seller, not the property, so if you sell two properties in the same year, you can typically use the same clearance certificate (i.e. you don't have to apply for a second one unless the second property is held in a different entity/name).

What information do you need to provide in the application? You can apply for a clearance certificate directly from the ATO here: <https://www.ato.gov.au/single-page-applications/frwt-certificate>.

You will need to have the following information on hand:

- Owner's name as it appears on the title, including TFNs, ABNs, ACNs as applicable;
- If it is a trustee, you will need details of the underlying company or trust;
- Contact details for the contact person for the entity, including phone number, postal address and email address;
- Anticipated contract and settlement date (if known, not necessary);
- You will need to declare that the owner is an Australian resident for tax purposes and/or that the entity is not holding the property beneficially for foreign residents.

If you require accounting, wealth and advisory assistance, please contact our experienced accountants at Poole Group on 07 5437 9900 or poole@poolegroup.com.au

Christine Benson
Senior SMSF Accountant
B.HSc(Acu), MPA, ASA





PSA Guide

Early detection saves lives

PSA >3 is a red flag

(>2 if positive Family Hx, BRCA)

Repeat PSA in 1-3 months with free/ total ratio

Refer if:

Second PSA is still >3 (2)

Or anytime if there is a hard prostatic nodule
or PSA increases while on Duodart

Refer to:

Dr. Tony Gianduzzo or A/Prof. Troy Gianduzzo



Sunshine Coast Urology Clinic

Buderim Prostate Clinic

A. Suite 2/5 Lyrebird St, Buderim QLD 4556

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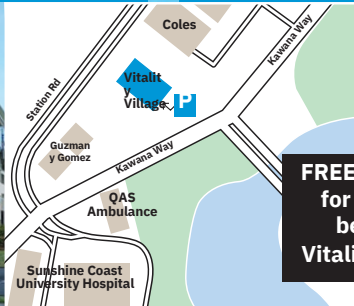
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www.qpain.com.au

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University of the Sunshine Coast is seeking participant referrals to contribute to medical research

Investigational treatment for advanced solid tumours

We are working on a Phase 1/2 open label trial to assess the safety, efficacy, and tolerability of an investigational treatment for patients with advanced solid tumours.

The study hopes to enhance the body's immune response to cancer cells while minimising side effects. This trial will take place at our Buderim clinic and is supported by our experienced clinical trials staff.

We are calling for participants who are:

- are aged 18 years or over
- have had a locally advanced and/or metastatic solid tumour confirmed by a histology or cytology report.

HER2-positive breast cancer trial

We are working in collaboration with pharmaceutical company, on a new phase 3 study for patients with HER2-positive breast cancer.

The trial will be overseen by Dr Brenton Seidl at the Sunshine Coast Haematology and Oncology Clinic at Buderim.

We are calling for participants who are:

- are aged 18 years or older
- have HER2-positive breast cancer that has spread (locally advanced or metastatic)
- are willing and able to comply with study visits

Potential treatment for ER-positive+, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer

We are calling for people who are aged 18 years or older, and have been diagnosed with ER-positive+, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer with resistance to prior adjuvant endocrine therapy to participate in the trial of a potential new treatment.

This phase 3 trial will evaluate the efficacy, safety and pharmacokinetics of an oral Selective Estrogen Receptor Degradator. The trial will be overseen by Dr Brenton Seidl at the Sunshine Coast Haematology and Oncology Clinic at Buderim.







We are calling for participants who:

- are aged 18 years or older
- have documented ER-positive and HER2-negative tumour
- do not have a history of systemic anti-cancer therapy for locally advanced or metastatic disease
- willing and able to attend study visits as required.

A growing clinical trials network

Do you have patients who might benefit from participating in a clinical trial?

If you would like to receive information on currently available clinical trials, please contact our Participant Outreach Coordinator, Koren Clarke on 07 5456 3569 or email kclarke2@usc.edu.au.

	<p>Ochre Health Level 1, 9 Ochre Way Sippy Downs QLD 4556</p>		<p>Health Hub Morayfield Level 1/19-31 Dickson Road Morayfield QLD 4506</p>
	<p>South Brisbane Building A1, SW1 Complex 32 Cordelia Street South Brisbane QLD 4101</p>		<p>Vitality Village 5 Discovery Court Birtinya QLD 4575</p>
	<p>Sunshine Coast Haematology and Oncology Clinic 10 King Street Buderim QLD 4556</p>		<p>Maroochydore Private Hospital (under construction) Maroochydore City Centre Maroochydore QLD 4558</p>

Classifieds

Dr Ajay Verma

M.B.B.S, MD., FRACP

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23 Elsa Wilson Drive

Buderim Qld 4556

Dr Verma, as well as consulting at both locations, has admitting rights to Buderim Private Hospital and Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital

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Phone: 0413 371 887

Nov 2023

REDCLIFFE LOCAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Redcliffe LMA produces a similar newsletter

For full details re advertising go to their website: www.rdma.org.au

Email: RDMAnews@gmail.com

We are looking for a new RN to join our team at Nambour Day Surgery/East Coast Women's Health Centre.

The role involves set-up and minor assistance of our surgeon during procedures, under sedation only. These are mostly pregnancy terminations, but also IUD insertions/removals and an occasional vasectomy. There would be some time also in recovery assisting patients to prepare for home. Training will be done with you, so theatre experience is not necessary, but some recovery, emergency room or acute care would be beneficial.

We are a small team, and the successful applicant needs to be able to work well with others, and be supportive to our patients coming through, as many are experiencing

a traumatic time in their lives. The position is a casual role, but we generally operate two days a week, on Thursdays and Fridays. We are looking for someone who is able to commit to those days.

Hours for those days are usually between 6-8 hours.

We are under the Private Health Nurses Award (MA000034).

Please email Jacqui at num@eastcoastwomens.com.au with a current CV, cover letter and references.

Classifieds continued...

VR GP Positions Available- Are you looking to semi-retire or just wanting flexibility in your work arrangements, regain your life back whilst still earning an income.

We have successfully transitioned from Closing a Practice to now working remotely from home and only servicing Aged Care Facilities. We are registered with the My Medicare Program allowing us to access GPs in Aged Care Incentive, the financial rewards are now here.

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Please contact Nadine for more information 0409 059 086.

SCLMA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES:

To comply with Section 133 of the National Law and guidelines, advertising of services must not:

Paragraph (a) "Create or be likely to create unwarranted and unrealistic expectations about the effectiveness of the health services advertised"

Paragraph (f) "Claim that the services provided by a particular regulated health profession are better, as safe as or safer than others"

Paragraph (o) "Contain any claim, statement or implication that a practitioner provides superior services to those provided by other registered health practitioners"

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

The anti discrimination commission of Queensland has the following statement on job advertising:

Discriminatory advertising is against the law. Job advertisements need to give the impression that all suitable applicants are welcome to apply. References to sex, relationship status, age, race, religion etc should be avoided, as should the use of words that may indicate a preference for particular groups or may discourage others from applying, eg foreman, tradesman, glamorous, well-built, mature, youthful, office girl etc. Publishers can be fined and be the subject of a complaint to the Commission for publishing discriminatory advertisements that show an intention to contravene the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991. Discriminatory advertisements will therefore often be refused or modified by publishers in order to avoid legal liability.





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SUNSHINE COAST LOCAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

SCLMA Monthly Clinical Meetings

THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2025

*(*PLEASE NOTE NOT LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH)*

Presenters:

Dr Emilia Duaway - Breast Surgery, General Surgery, Surgical Oncology

Dr Melissa Acreman - Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Fertility - IVF, Gynaecology

MAROOCHY SURF CLUB FUNCTION ROOM - Alexandra Parade, Cotton Tree
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm (9.00 pm finish)

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