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NEWSLETTER FOR SPECIALISTS AND GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

DECEMBER 2000

From BUNDABERG BASE HOSPITAL

2000 has been a challenging year for Bundaberg Base Hospital with some progress made on finding additional resources for specialist staff positions, but considerable difficulty in recruiting certain positions. We have pursued a direct, active recruitment campaign recently which appears promising.

The District has been working closely with the Division of General Practice to improve integration of primary and secondary level patient care. The success of a funding submission for a 'Clinical Assistantship' program has provided some resources to improve this relationship. I urge you to get involved in this venture.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE:

- Fulltime Director - Dr Peter Miach - general and renal (0.4 FTE to Hervey Bay)
- Fulltime Staff Specialist - (currently being recruited) - locum Dr Nasimul Ghani
- VMO - Dr T Martin Strahan
- VMO - Dr Susan Waite (Dermatology)
- VMO - Dr Peter Whan (Palliative Care)

New Services:

- Renal Unit expansion
- Network Gastroenterology service for direct referral/procedure due to commence early 2001 (to be advised)

Future Service Development. The District Health Service is currently considering service requirements for:

- Cardiology
- Sexual Health

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Plan for 2001:

- Establish formal outpatient service for general medicine
- Develop diabetic clinic

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY:

Fulltime Director - Dr Charles Nankivell

Fulltime Staff General Surgeon - Dr Sam Baker (commence 15 January 2001)
- locum Dr Patrick Daly

Fulltime Staff Orthopaedic Surgeon - Dr Neil Robinson

VMO Orthopaedic Surgeon - Dr Michael Delaney

VMO Vascular Surgeon - Dr Brian Thiele

VMO General Surgeon - Dr Howard Kingston

New Services:

- Network Surgical Service - to be advised
- (See Network Gastro Service) - will reduce pressure on clinic waiting times

Future Service Development. The District Health Service is currently considering service requirements for:

- Urology

Plan for 2001:

- Address waiting period for general surgical clinic appointments to within guidelines.

The waiting list for clinic appointments in general surgery remains long. The District is pursuing several strategies to resolve this, but it is likely to take several months. These strategies include:

- Second fulltime surgeon now in place
- Additional visiting gastroenterology service with separate outpatients clinic (Commencement date to be advised)
- Separate skin malignancy minor operations strategy
- Increased general surgical clinics from five to six per week

However, please be aware that Hervey Bay Hospital have very little wait for clinic appointments/surgery in general surgery. You may refer directly to Hervey Bay should you or your patients wish to access surgical services more quickly, due to our clinic waiting times. (Patient Travel Assistance will be made available for this purpose until waiting times return to an acceptable level). Please contact me on 41 502210 should you wish to discuss this further.

INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE:

Fulltime Director - Vacant - Position being recruited

VMO - Dr Scott Jenkins - Inpatient Unit

Fulltime staff specialist - Community - Dr Brian Cook

Fulltime SMO - Community - Dr Judy O'Donnell

Fulltime staff specialist - Child & Youth - Dr Clive Smith (to commence March/April 2001)

VMO - Child & Health - Dr John Varghese

Plan for 2001:

- Fulltime Director to be appointed early in 2001
- Implement new Mental Health Act and National Mental Health Standards

PAEDIATRICS (UNDER DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE):

VMO - Dr Chris Ryan

VMO - Dr Judy Williams

Fulltime staff specialist (new funding) - currently being recruited

New Services and Plan for 2001:

- With two new allied health positions and new fulltime Paediatrician, Community Paediatrics Service will be developed for intervention in early school age children

BUNDABERG FAMILY UNIT:

Fulltime specialist Director - Dr Malcolm Stumer - on leave

Fulltime locum staff specialist - Dr Murray Morrison until 29 December

Fulltime locum staff specialist - Dr Wimral Wijeratne - Jan to Dec 2001

VMO - Dr Trevor Davies - On-call and sessional

VMO - Dr Errol Gomes - On-call services

Future Service Development. The District Health Service is currently considering service requirements for:

- Second fulltime specialist O & G to increase establishment from 1 to 2 fulltime specialists.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE:

One Acting Specialist Director (part-time) - Dr Kees Nydam

One Fulltime specialist Director - vacant - (currently being recruited)

One SMO - Dr Chris Barnes

New Services:

- Helipad adjacent to Department of emergency has significantly reduced time to definitive care for critical patients.

Plan for 2001:

- Put in place fulltime Director and change to rostering/allocation to allow improved after hours seniority in the Department

DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHETICS AND INTENSIVE CARE:

One Fulltime specialist Director - Dr Martin Wakefield

Fulltime staff specialist - Dr Bill Berryman until mid Feb 2001 - (locum)

Then - Dr Chris Jeliffe (permanent)

Fulltime staff specialist/SMO - Dr Dieter Berens

Fulltime staff specialist - (vacant) currently being recruited (new funding)

VMO GP/Anaesthetist - Dr Jon Joiner

New Services:

- The new resources for critical care/anaesthetics has allowed an additional specialist anaesthetist to be recruited

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL IMAGING:

Contract Service

VMO - Director - Dr John Mitchell

VMO - Dr John Branson

VMO - Dr Paul Menssink

New Services:

- Helical CT scan installed early 2000 and operational

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & OTHER DRUGS (ATODS):

SMO - Dr Kees Nydam

BREAST SCREEN:

Specialist Surgeon VMO's: Dr Charles Nankivell

Dr Mike Moreny

Dr Jack O'Donohue

BREAST SCREEN (cont):

VMO General Practitioners:

Dr Marilyn Peers
Dr Denise Powell
Dr Therese Ryan

VMO Radiologist:

Dr John Mitchell
Dr John Branson
Dr Paul Menssink

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I will write to introduce the new specialist staff upon their appointment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or through the Division of General Practice should you wish to discuss any issues or provide feedback on District Service.

I would like to extend the Seasons Greetings to you and your families, and wish you all a safe and prosperous 2001.

Dr John Wakefield,
Director of Medical Services.