

Monday, 4 September 2017

## Helping navigate hospital this Multicultural Health Week

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District's Multicultural Health Service is celebrating Multicultural Health Week by hosting a group of local TAFE NSW students on a tour of Shoalhaven Hospital.

Multicultural Health Service Manager, Leissa Pitts said the tour aims to address some of the common barriers members of the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community have in accessing health services.

"More than 18% of our local community were born overseas. We know that navigating health services can sometimes be complex and confusing when English is not your first language," Ms Pitts said.

"Similar tours have been run at other hospitals in the District and have shown to be very successful in increasing awareness, confidence and knowledge of how to access and use health care services," she said.

The students participating in the tour are studying English Language courses at TAFE NSW Nowra and come from a range of different backgrounds including: Tibetan, Chinese, Arabic, Thai, Portuguese, Italian and Filipino.

"We're thrilled to be hosting the first tour at Shoalhaven Hospital during Multicultural Health Week – and to have the support of TAFE NSW," Ms Pitts said.

"Students will have the opportunity to learn about the hospital, familiarise themselves with the facility and visit some of the wards including the Emergency Department, Outpatients Clinic, Maternity Unit and Children's Ward.

"They'll also have the opportunity to talk and engage with staff and ask any questions they may have," she said.

Multicultural Health Week is being celebrated from 4-10 September. The Shoalhaven Hospital multicultural tour is taking place on Wednesday, 6 September.

**Media Note: Media are invited to attend Shoalhaven Hospital at 12pm on Wednesday, 6 September to interview students following the tour.**

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