

## Media Release

For immediate release

# Nurse practitioner strengthens Kilkivan GP service

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Health services in the rural communities of Kilkivan and Goomeri have received a much-needed boost with the appointment of a new visiting nurse practitioner, Jenny Doherty.

Ms Doherty brings more than 40 years' experience in rural communities across Queensland and will be based at the Kilkivan Community Health Centre two days a week from mid November.

"Back in 2005 I completed my training as a nurse practitioner just down the road in Murgon. So, the opportunity to practice in Kilkivan is almost like coming full circle," Ms Doherty said.

"I've practiced in communities like Mt Isa, Dajara, Cammoweal and Dayboro.

"It's really satisfying to be able to meet the needs of people living in those more rural areas and deliver the best possible care for my patients."

As a nurse practitioner, Ms Doherty can deliver a wide range of services from diagnosing illnesses, ordering and interpreting tests, prescribing medication and formulating treatment plans.

The new services are the result of a collaboration between Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network (PHN) and CheckUP Australia.

CheckUP CEO Ann Maree Liddy said the funding of a new nurse practitioner position was a great result for the people of Kilkivan and Goomeri.

"More people will be able to access bulk billing health services through CheckUP's visiting GP service at the Kilkivan Health Clinic," Ms Liddy said.

"It's been great to have the opportunity to respond to the needs of the community and ensure the community can access quality health services without having to drive 50km to Gympie."

PHN CEO Pattie Hudson said many rural and regional communities faced significant challenges accessing primary health services.

"Community feedback is essential when we look to improve health services in communities like Kilkivan and Goomeri," Ms Hudson said.

"By hearing your experiences, we can identify the gaps and solve those issues."

"Ensuring healthcare is accessible to residents in all our communities is our priority," Adjunct Professor Naomi Dwyer, Chief Executive Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service said.

"It is wonderful to see this partnership result in such a positive outcome. We also thank the community for providing their feedback and support."

You can come along and meet Jenny at the Kilkivan Community Health Centre on Wednesday 31 October 2018 from 1.30pm – 2.30pm. A light afternoon tea will be provided.

Information about the visiting health services to Kilkivan and Goomeri including upcoming visit dates are available at CheckUP's Outreach Diary [outreach.checkup.org.au/](http://outreach.checkup.org.au/).

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## **About CheckUP**

CheckUP's goal is to create healthier communities by providing services closer to home for people and communities who need it most. CheckUP also funds visiting podiatry, physiotherapy and counselling services to provide a suite of health services for locals.

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