

MEDIA RELEASE

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PHN appoints Julie Sturgess as new CEO

Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN announced today that a new CEO will soon lead the organisation. Julie Sturgess, an experienced business leader in the health sector will succeed current CEO Pattie Hudson who is stepping down after 10 years with Medicare Local and the PHN. Pattie said she is delighted to welcome Julie as the new CEO and knows that the PHN will continue to grow and thrive while serving our communities, with Julie's extensive skills and knowledge as a health leader.

Sunshine Coast Health Network (**SCHN**) Board Chair, Dr Peter Dobson said, "The Board is delighted to appoint Julie Sturgess to lead the organisation and we are very much looking forward to sharing in her knowledge and expertise," Mr Dobson said.

A highly experienced senior leader and CEO, Ms Sturgess has over 35 years' experience in the health care sector as a clinician and senior management executive. Her experience encompasses roles in government and non-government organisations, metropolitan, regional and rural health providers.

Ms Sturgess has a very 'hands on' approach to understanding what is important to recipients of primary health care services. She has a passion for driving the provision of healthcare services and improving access for patients across a range of environments through the implementation of innovative and sustainable solutions for care which promote optimum safety, quality and efficiency, whilst recognising the unique requirements of each community and healthcare provider.

Ms Sturgess brings significant experience as a respected senior leader and CEO, most recently as the CEO of Healthy North Coast for the past four years; an organisation delivering the PHN program on the North Coast of NSW.

Ms Sturgess said, "Advocating for the important role of primary care and community leadership in health and wellbeing, I'm looking forward to the new role and the opportunities to work with local communities across the region to embed this."

"A move to the region also marks a return home to family which is also exciting", she said.

Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN is delighted to have attracted someone as talented as Ms Sturgess to lead the organisation in driving the strategic priorities for the region and supporting primary health care to keep our communities strong and resilient. She will join the PHN's accomplished Executive Management Team delivering for the Central Queensland, Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast community.

SCHN Board Chair, Dr Peter Dobson and the Board members thank Pattie Hudson for her passion and dedicated service over the past decade in serving and providing positive health outcomes for our communities and wish her well in her future endeavors.

They acknowledged that Ms Hudson led the successful tender to establish Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN. Ms Hudson has developed strong partnerships within the Government and non-Government sector to drive health system reform agenda and most recently, chaired the state-wide response to COVID and flood response. During her time at the PHN, she championed a range of joint initiatives to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities, including the establishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership Roundtable, Gympie Health Hub and the Healthy Towns Awards program to name a few.

Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN is an independent not-for-profit commissioning organisation funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to improve the health outcomes of the region. The organisation works closely with GPs, allied health care providers, hospitals, and the community to help patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

Image supplied

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Media contact:

Contact: Jess Barr, Manager Media and Communications
Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN

Email: communications@ourphn.org.au

Phone: 0404 159 763