



SUNSHINE COAST
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Future in Focus: Students Experience Real-World Healthcare at SC Health Careers Day

On Tuesday 13 May, around 30 enthusiastic Year 9 and 10 Grammar students stepped behind the scenes of one of Australia's most vital industries at the **Sunshine Coast Careers in Health Day**, hosted by the **Sunshine Coast Health Institute**. The day was organised by Head of Pathways, **Wanda Hayes**, with Pathways Counsellor **Lauren Soden** also attending to support students throughout the experience.

Over the course of the afternoon, students rotated through hands-on workshops in areas including **midwifery, pharmacy, nuclear medicine imaging, nursing, and occupational therapy**. With VR headsets, medical mannequins and real clinical tools at their fingertips, they were immersed in the realities of healthcare careers - from **taking blood pressure and inserting nasogastric (NG) tubes**, to **testing lung capacity** and even **helping deliver a baby** using simulation dummies. One popular (and slightly gross) activity had students creating poo from playdough - a memorable way to understand digestive health!

The highlight for many was a live, high-intensity **emergency room simulation**, staged in the lecture theatre. With beeping monitors, microphones live, and speakers projecting the sounds of a real Emergency Department (ED), students watched a coordinated trauma response unfold as **paramedics, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, radiologists, anaesthetists and surgeons** worked together to treat a critical patient. *"It felt like we were actually there in the hospital—it was amazing seeing how many roles are involved,"* said Year 10 student **Thomas P.**

Year 11 student, Elli P, currently on placement with Allied Health, inspired younger peers by greeting visitors at the Allied Health stand in her professional scrubs, showing just how close these career pathways really are.

Grammar staff were equally impressed. *"It was a brilliant way to open students' eyes to the huge variety of healthcare roles beyond the obvious,"* said **Mr Dan Robotham**, Acting Dean of Students. **Katie Livock**, Head of Year 9, added: *"This event gave our students the kind of hands-on learning that sparks real excitement about the future."*

Whether interested in becoming a surgeon, pharmacist, or physiotherapist - or just curious about where science can take them - students walked away with a deeper understanding of the many paths available in healthcare. As **Grace E (Year 10)** put it, *"I didn't realise how many different careers are part of a hospital. Now I'm seriously thinking about a career in health."*

Thinking about a future in healthcare? Make an appointment with the Pathways Team to explore study and career pathways.

Wanda Hayes
Head of Pathways and Partnerships

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