An agreement has been signed between the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) and the Geraldton Universities Centre which will see plans developed for a new locally supported Bachelor of Nursing program to commence in Geraldton.

The agreement allows for supported external delivery for USQ’s nationally accredited Bachelor of Nursing to commence in Semester 2, 2014 while Geraldton site accreditation is sought from the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council.

As part of this accreditation process, GUC hosted a visit from USQ’s Head of Nursing Professor Cath Rogers and Coordinator Dr Clint Moloney, where the pair met with members of the Mid West Health, Education and Training Alliance as well as visiting major health and education facilities that will be part of the supported delivery.

GUC Director Meredith Wills said the local support received on these visits was outstanding.

“Everywhere we went we were welcomed with open arms, and everybody we introduced USQ to confirmed their support for the GUC and the re-introduction of face-to-face nursing delivery,” she said.

GUC Chair Steve Douglas said the education of registered nurses in Geraldton was critical for the Mid West regional workforce and the community at large.

“It is well documented that students studying and training locally tend to work in the region,” Mr Douglas said. “That’s why this support and commitment from USQ to provide this nursing program is so important. We will see a continuity of nursing graduates to fill local positions and serve our community.”

The Bachelor of Nursing will be the second supported external program offered by USQ at the GUC, with the Associate Degree in Engineering introduced at the Centre in 2013.

“Offering our Bachelor of Nursing via a supported external model, with the GUC, is an exciting new step for USQ,” said Professor Cath Rogers.

“It’s all about creating opportunities for regional people to start or extend their nursing careers. This is good for them, but even better for their communities, to address the rural nursing shortage.”

There has not been an intake of first year registered nursing students at the GUC since July 2012.

More than 20 potential students keen to undertake nursing studies locally attended an information session with Prof Rogers and Dr Moloney during their visit to the GUC.
March 15 2014 saw the Geraldton Universities Centre take another huge step forward in its development - the celebratory opening of our second building.

The building was officially opened by Minister for Regional Development, the Honourable Terry Redman MLA, as part of the ceremony that saw more than 90 invited guests attend. Among the guests were local politicians and dignitaries, Hollomby Foundation donors and GUC board members, past and present. 2013 scholarship recipients were recognised in the ceremony, with GUC Director Meredith Wills thanking the longstanding local donors for their contribution to GUC students each year via scholarships.

“There is no doubt that the hard work and dedication of our staff and Board have been the catalyst for change and growth... but I don’t think its drawing a long bow to say that this wouldn’t have happened without the active participation and support of the Mid West community and industry,” she said.

While we have been negotiating new programs and increasing student enrolments, the number of scholarship sponsors has also grown. Then Ian Wheatland offered us the opportunity to set up the Hollomby Foundation in memory of Joe’s legacy.

“This year more than $30,000 is available for student scholarships. A far cry from the situation we found ourselves in 2006.”

Guests were treated to afternoon tea on arrival giving all an opportunity to catch up and celebrate the significant occasion.

“The GUC continues to grow with our student enrolments this year reaching the highest ever, so to be able to officially launch our new building cemented a solid and positive future for the GUC, its students and our region,” Meredith concluded.
Orientation welcomes first year students to GUC

Eighty first year students studying a range of programs at the GUC were welcomed at this year’s Orientation Day.

The students heard first from GUC Director Meredith Wills, who welcomed all into the centre and wished them the very best with their studies.

A tour of the GUC campus followed, with students exploring both buildings before visiting the Durack campus and the facilities available there. Students also broke into course specific groups, where each coordinator guided them through their relevant online course material and study plans appropriate to their degree.

A barbie lunch finished off the successful morning, with students bonding through a “find this person’s name” game - enjoyed by all.

The GUC welcomes Jo, our Registered Nursing Coordinator to the GUC Academic team.

Jo has been a registered nurse since 1987, working at Royal Perth Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit before moving to Geraldton more than 25 years ago to start her family.

Jo has worked at the Geraldton Regional Hospital since 2010, in the operating theatre.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Micro Biology, and her Masters in Clinical Nursing - but has not yet finished with her studies.

Jo is currently completing her post graduate in Nursing Education, which will assist her in her new role at the GUC.

“I am very excited to start teaching the new nursing students next semester,” she said.

“Having the nursing program back at the GUC is so important for our community - many students do not want to leave Geraldton and to be able to offer the program again locally means these students can study with the support of their family close by.”

Jo has enjoyed her working role as a registered nurse, especially in high pressure situations she has often found herself in.

“I love the patient contact and theatre and intensive care work,” she said.

“It is a challenge which I enjoy and its also a specialised area which creates more of a team environment.”

When Jo is not at work she enjoys spending time with her husband and six children at home.

“Having six children certainly keeps me busy and comes with many challenges - but I wouldn’t have it any other way,” she said.

TUTORS in Profile

Jo Krummenacher
The GUC welcomes Jo, our Registered Nursing Coordinator to the GUC Academic team.
More from Stage 2 Opening

It's always a highlight at any GUC event to hear from our students. The Stage 2 Opening was no exception with the winner of the 2013 RSM Bird Cameron Top Accounting Student, Deb Carson addressing the audience on life as a GUC student, supported by her community. As a mother, farmer’s wife and fantastic community contributor herself, Deb is indeed an asset to the GUC.

Big Thank You to the Horwood Family

The Hollomby Foundation is to be the beneficiary of a $50,000 donation from David and Jill Horwood and their relatives pending the sale of the Telethon Home later this year.

The Horwood’s donated Lot 314 of their Deepdale subdivision to the Telethon Home, stipulating that $50,000 from its sale must go to a local charity.

With a particular interest in nursing education, and a recommendation from Member for Geraldton Ian Blayney, the Hollomby Foundation was selected as that charity.

The donation will be used to provide annual Deepdale Bursaries for Nursing and possibly other courses supported at GUC.

David and Jill attended the opening of the Stage 2 Building and were thanked for the generosity.