Monday January 14, 2019

Like mother, like daughter: RNSH gets its youngest volunteer

Eighteen-year-old Sam Kordi will have a lot on her plate when school resumes – as well as tackling her HSC this year, she's just become the youngest volunteer at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Caring comes naturally to Sam, who plans to follow in the footsteps of her mum, Royal North Shore nurse Macy Panah.

While Macy, who supervises patient discharges to ensure they have appropriate support when they get home, has had a varied nursing career, Sam has her sights set firmly on working as an Emergency Department (ED) nurse.

As a volunteer at Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH), Sam will join an army of around 550 men and women who give up their time to help patients, visitors, and staff.

"I have a very big interest in helping other people. I have watched the career of my mum and others who help people and I have been very interested in what they do," Sam said.

"When I turned 18 I decided I would volunteer somewhere, and because I want to be a nurse, and my mum works at Royal North Shore, this is a very logical move."

Macy said she was delighted Sam wanted to follow in her footsteps.

"Over the years, I have often taken her to my work, even when she was younger and I was working in Sweden," she said.

"She's very kind and has the right personality to be a nurse – you need to be compassionate, and a people person."

RNSH general manager Alison Zecchin said volunteers played a crucial role in the smooth running of the hospitals.

"They work in all areas of the hospital, ranging from helping patients with meals, meeting and greeting visitors, and helping out in areas like research and the ED," she said.

Aspiring volunteers undergo comprehensive assessment including criminal record checks. If you're interested in being a hospital volunteer, please phone 9462 9936 or email judith.hoganwright@health.nsw.gov.au