Future health services for Gladstone and the Bowen, Galilee and Surat Basins

Delivering more services sooner and closer to home

Rapidly expanding region

Queensland Health has prepared a plan to provide efficient, sustainable and responsive health services for people in the Bowen, Galilee and Surat Basins.

The region is a rapidly expanding mining and energy hub with an ever-growing and transient population making increasing demands on existing healthcare services.

Queensland Health is committed to delivering access to quality healthcare sooner and closer to home and is already enhancing services to meet these population and demographic changes.

Gladstone, Queensland’s largest port, is the base for huge industrial development, including the processing and exporting of coal seam gas and liquefied natural gas produced in the Basins. In 2010, the estimated population for the Gladstone area was 54,249—projected to increase to 77,016 by 2021.

The Bowen Basin has the largest coal reserve in Australia with more than 49 mines operating and at least a further 84 proposed mine expansions or development projects. Three major rail duplication projects are currently underway. In 2010, the estimated population was 107,473—projected to increase to 139,550 by 2021.

The Surat Basin region has more than 100 new resource projects planned, including coal mines, wind farms and power stations. In 2010, the estimated population was 52,436—projected to increase to 58,666 by 2021.

The Galilee Basin is a remote, sparsely populated, but major, coal province north-west of Emerald. Four major projects are expected to drive short term rapid development in the region. In 2010, the estimated population was 51,228—projected to increase to 62,679 by 2021.

Health Services Plan 2011–2021

Queensland Health is planning to provide healthcare in the Bowen, Galilee and Surat Basins through a “hub and spoke” model of service delivery.

This model will provide specialists for acute care in one central location supported by locally-based facilities offering “day-to-day” services for residents.

This means no matter where you live, you will have access to the right healthcare, by the right team in the right place, with Gladstone being a key centre to support future growth in the Basins.
Health service enhancements to the Bowen, Galilee and Surat Basins

Roma Hospital

Work commenced in November 2011 on a $1.2 million upgrade of Roma Hospital’s emergency department, which is due to be completed early 2012. The upgrade includes doubling the number of treatment bays from two to four, a new triage and triage assessment room, enhanced staff station and improved public access and waiting areas.

It has been designed to enable staff to treat patients safely and more efficiently. For example, the triage nurse will have full visual oversight of the waiting room area at all times allowing for better patient flow.

The hospital will appoint additional senior clinicians for the upgraded emergency department.

Biggenden Multi-Purpose Health Service

The $12.5 million Biggenden Multi-Purpose Health Service (MPHS) was completed in January 2012.

The MPHS features seven acute beds, 11 aged care beds, two emergency treatment spaces, three multi-purpose consulting rooms and a GP private practice area. There will also be a new co-located Queensland Ambulance Service station on the campus.

The facility has been designed to be flexible and adaptable to meet the changing and future health needs of the Biggenden community.

Isisford Primary Health Centre

The $2.89 million Isisford Primary Health Centre was completed in November 2011, replacing the original more than 100-year-old clinic building.

The new building has modern data connections and cabling, a public waiting room with reception and office space, two consulting rooms for visiting GPs and specialists, an X-ray room and a treatment room. This will allow for more efficient service delivery to the community. There is also an undercover ambulance bay and small adjoining accommodation for relieving staff.

The project also involved the purchase of two residences for the use of permanent staff—a three-bedroom house and a two-bedroom house—that have now been fitted out and are located permanently on a site just to the east of the former primary health centre.

Barcaldine Doctors Surgery

The $1.67 million Barcaldine Doctors Surgery opened in October 2011, providing residents with access to improved and expanded medical services.

The surgery also provides spacious new facilities for three doctors at Barcaldine MPHS, who have rights of private practice as well.

Construction of the new surgery was completed earlier in the year but, prior to opening to the public, the surgery underwent a further internal fit-out to meet the doctors’ requirements.
Pressure will be taken off services offered at the Barcaldine MPHS with the opening of the new doctors’ surgery, which has six spacious consultation rooms and a two-bay treatment room.

Moranbah, Dysart and Clermont staff accommodation

Staff accommodation for Moranbah, Dysart and Clermont opened in March 2011 to help attract clinicians to the town. The $1.8 million build comprises two two-bedroom units in Dysart while Clermont and Moranbah each have one two-bedroom unit.

All four units can be used as two single bedroom accommodation units or alternatively as a two-bedroom family unit because each bedroom has its own en suite bathroom and the kitchen, lounge and balcony are shared.

Gladstone Oral Health Clinic

Gladstone’s $4.2 million Oral Health Clinic, on the Gladstone Hospital campus, became operational in December 2010 placing all of the city’s major public health services in one location.

The facility comprises five chairs (two more than previously), enabling oral health therapists to provide basic oral hygiene services to adults. Digital radiography can now be offered, providing a faster service with better quality X-rays.

The Oral Health Clinic was the final stage of the $17.045 million Gladstone community oral health and mental health consolidation. The other two stages included a new community health building and refurbishment of mental health services.

Gladstone renal services and operating theatre

Gladstone patients are now able to have dialysis treatment closer to home.

Opened in January 2012, the new four-chair satellite renal unit at Gladstone Hospital is a partnership between Queensland Health and QGC Pty Limited, developer of the Queensland Curtis LNG project.

QGC provided $2 million for the facility’s construction and early training of local staff and Queensland Health is funding its ongoing operation.

In addition to the renal dialysis unit, QGC is funding a $1.5 million upgrade of the Gladstone Hospital operating suite. This comprises $1 million for refurbishment of the two operating theatres and recovery area as well as $500,000 for new equipment.
Bowen, Galilee and Surat Basins Health Services Plan 2011–2021

The Bowen, Galilee and Surat Basins Health Services Plan 2011-2021 has been compiled by Queensland Health, in partnership with local health service districts, community groups and the resources industry. It focuses on hospitals in six towns—Bowen, Dalby, Emerald, Gladstone, Moranbah and Roma—that are likely to have the highest population growth as a result of resource sector projects.

The plan considers the population of these towns and the need for health services across the Basins’ region, including demand for a range of hospital, primary, preventative and allied health services.

Common health needs associated with the resources industry include physical injury, respiratory illness, mental health and chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer. Workers are also prone to health risks associated with increased levels of alcohol intake, drug and tobacco use, obesity and chronic fatigue.

The “hub and spoke” model provides flexibility to accommodate population fluctuations and changes in health service needs. The plan proposes that the rural and regional hub hospitals will deliver, at a minimum, four core health services—surgical and procedural, maternity, emergency and general medical services.

The hubs will support the spoke services in their catchments to provide outreach health services to their communities. Spoke services will be available at: Collinsville, Glenden, Dysart, Clermont, Middlemont, Springsure, Blackwater, Alpha, Capella, Moura, Baralaba, Taroom, Tara, Chinchilla, Miles, Jandowae, Wandoan, Injune, Mitchell, Surat and Wallumbilla.

All hub and spoke services will be supported by regional and metropolitan specialist services in Mackay, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Brisbane.

The Gladstone Hospital is to offer a regional hub service, which will provide rural generalist and advanced training to support and develop the workforce in the future. A health service review of Gladstone Hospital has also been undertaken.

Gladstone Hospital Health Services Review

The Gladstone Hospital Health Services Review takes into account health service planning for the Bowen, Galilee and Surat Basins. It examines the impact of projected population growth and demographic changes in the Gladstone area on hospital service needs until 2021.

There have already been significant service improvements at Gladstone Hospital, including new staff accommodation and the relocation of community health, oral health and mental health services onto the hospital campus.

Gladstone Hospital now provides general medicine, surgery, maternity, paediatrics, emergency services, outpatients, medical imaging, pathology and pharmacy services. These are supported by specialist services at Rockhampton Base Hospital.

Based on projections, the review concluded by 2021 there should be an increase in medical and surgical beds from 52 to 67; emergency treatment spaces from 11 to 27; chemotherapy services from three to six chairs; and maternity services from 9 to 10 beds. There should also be a dedicated 19 bed sub-acute unit. The review found there was sufficient space on the hospital’s current location for further service expansion.

Information from the review has been considered in the preparation of the Queensland Infrastructure Plan.

For more information

To view the Bowen, Galilee and Surat Basins Health Services Plan and the Gladstone Hospital Health Services Review visit: www.health.qld.gov.au/buildinghealth

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