
Summary of the key issues discussed and decisions made by the Board

**Townsville Hospital and Health Board Meeting
24 September 2012**

A meeting of the Townsville Hospital and Health Board was held on 24 September 2012 at the Townsville Hospital and Health Service Offices, Level One, North Block, The Townsville Hospital.

The meeting was chaired by Mr John Bearne and attended by all members of the Board. An apology was received from Donald Whaleboat. Board members in attendance were:

Mr John Bearne (Chair)
Dr Eric Guazzo
Ms Lyn McLaughlin
Dr Kevin Arlett

Mrs Michelle Morton (Deputy Chair)
Mr Glen Cerutti
Ms Susan Phillips
Professor Ian Wronski

The Board complimented the Interim Chief Executive and staff for the way they had equipped themselves in implementation of the very difficult decisions the Board made at its August meeting about organisational restructuring and staffing numbers. The Board noted that the Townsville Hospital and Health Service (THHS) was the first HHS in Queensland to implement these difficult decisions and had been commended by both the Minister and the Industrial Relations Commissioner for their handling of the staffing cuts.

Equally reassuring to the Board was that there has been a positive response from staff across the THHS on suggestions for further cost containment and efficiencies. The Board will be considering some of the staff suggestions at its next meeting.

As foreshadowed at its August meeting the Board also considered additional measures to increase its revenue so that it can meet its financial obligations under the Service Agreement. Effective from 1 January 2013, the Board has approved the introduction of paid parking for visitors to The Townsville Hospital, as part of a longer term strategy to introduce paid parking across the whole Townsville Hospital campus and the construction of a multi-storey car park.

The Board reaffirmed its commitment to provide better healthcare outcomes for the community within not only its immediate jurisdiction but in the neighbouring jurisdictions it also services throughout Tropical North Queensland.

To achieve this, the Board has recently been in dialogue with the Hospital and Health Service in Mount Isa about a Heads of Agreement on collective regional health service delivery. Discussions are planned to include Cairns, Mackay and other areas of Far North Tropical Queensland in this Heads of Agreement. The Board has also called for a detailed investigation of maternity services within the THHS and on strategies to increase the use of home dialysis by THHS patients.

The Board indicated that it would have to continue to seek additional revenue raising and cost containment measures if it is to meet both its current financial challenges and provide a high quality and sustainable health service.

This summary of key issues discussed and decisions made is approved for publishing by the Chair of the Townsville Hospital and Health Board and does not form or represent any part of the minutes of the meeting.

Version	Approval Date	Approved By
1 st	10 May 2013	Chair THHB