

MEDIA RELEASE

New BreastScreen premises officially opened by state's Chief Health Officer

Queensland Department of Health Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young officially opened the new premises of the BreastScreen Queensland Toowoomba Service today.

Dr Young said the facility at 661 Ruthven Street was one that the people of Toowoomba could be justifiably proud of.

"I congratulate the BreastScreen Queensland Toowoomba Service, and the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service, on the development of these new premises," she said.

"We know that one in eight Queensland women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lives, and we also know that early detection is the best defence.

"The fact that you were able to use an existing building which was fitted out to your own specifications means you now have a purpose-built facility that will provide breast screening services to countless women from Toowoomba and surrounding areas for many years to come.

"I would also like to congratulate you for continuing to keep your service running during the time you were moving, by providing breast screening at the mobile service which you had operating in locations around Toowoomba."

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board Chair Mr Mike Horan said it was an honour to have Dr Young on hand for the official opening.

"On behalf of the Board I extend our sincere thanks to Dr Jeannette Young for joining us today to open the new BreastScreen Queensland Toowoomba premises," he said.

"The relocation of BreastScreen to this new location was undertaken as part of a larger project to install an MRI service at Toowoomba Hospital.

"The MRI project involves significant construction in the area of Toowoomba Hospital where the BreastScreen Queensland Toowoomba service was previously located.

"Moving offsite was a considerable undertaking, and I would like to commend Dr Patricia Dowling, medical director of the BreastScreen Queensland Toowoomba service, and the entire team, for their efforts throughout the process.

"I would also like to congratulate our Infrastructure and Planning team, for their work in selecting a building that was suitable to be refitted, in such an easily accessible and convenient location.

"The location here at 661 Ruthven Street is only minutes from the Toowoomba Hospital campus, but it is very easy to get to and provides plenty of parking, which is a great benefit for both clients and staff."

Mr Horan said the \$1.85 million premises had been designed and constructed to provide a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere for clients, with improved clinical capabilities and staff support facilities.

“The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service provided 17,764 breast screens in the 2015-16 financial year and we would anticipate this number to increase as the region’s population grows in the coming years,” he said.

“These new premises feature an extra mammography room, taking the total to three, which means we will be able to cater to increased demand for services.

“It also has two ultrasound rooms; two clinical examination rooms; a counselling room; dedicated screening and assessment waiting rooms; and upgraded staff support facilities.

“We are very proud of the new BreastScreen Queensland premises at Toowoomba and very pleased to be providing these services to the women from locations throughout the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service.”

Women aged 40 and over are encouraged to get a free breast screen every two years. To book an appointment phone 13 20 50.

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MEDIA: *Contact Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service Media Team 4699 8725, 0448 996 296 or DDHHS_media@health.qld.gov.au*