

MEDIA RELEASE

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New BreastScreen premises to deliver increased convenience to clients

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board Chair Mr Mike Horan today announced the awarding of a tender for the fit out of the new BreastScreen Queensland Toowoomba Service premises.

“Last October a \$9.55 million project to install an MRI at Toowoomba Hospital was announced,” Mr Horan said.

“That project will require significant construction work in sections of Toowoomba Hospital which accommodate the Medical Imaging Department and the BreastScreen Queensland Toowoomba Service.

“This means the BreastScreen Queensland Toowoomba Service will be moving from the hospital to a new location at 661 Ruthven Street.

“I am very pleased to announce that the tender for the fit out of the new BreastScreen Queensland Toowoomba Service has been awarded to Hutchinson’s Builders.

“This \$1.85 million fit out has been designed by local firm Elia Architecture to provide a new level of convenience to BreastScreen Queensland clients from Toowoomba and surrounding areas.”

Mr Horan said the new facility would also have the capacity to cater for an increased number of clients.

“In the 2014 -15 financial year Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service provided 18,928 breast screens and with the figure expected to increase every year it’s wonderful to see that the new facility will include an extra mammography room, taking the total to three,” Mr Horan said.

“It will also include two ultrasound rooms, two clinical examination rooms, a counselling room, dedicated screening and assessment waiting areas and associated staff support facilities.

“The location on Ruthven Street is easily accessible and also offers plenty of parking which is something that will be welcomed by both clients and staff.

“Construction is due to start soon and we expect the new and expanded BreastScreen Queensland Toowoomba Service to be operational by August this year.”

BreastScreen health promotion officer Shenaed Bliss said it was vital for women to make their health a priority and remember to book in for vital health checks.

“It will be business as usual with appointments still available at the Toowoomba Hospital BreastScreen clinic right up until the time we move into the new premises later in the year,” Ms Bliss said.

“In 2016 more than 15,000 Australian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

“One in eight Queensland women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lives and of those 90 per cent will have no family history of the illness, so we urge every woman over 40 to book in for a breast screen every two years.

“It takes less than 30 minutes, it’s free, you don’t need a doctor’s referral and it may save your life.

“Early detection is the best defence against breast cancer so phone 13 20 50 today to make an appointment.”

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