

## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service

GP Connections

11 April 2015

### **Hospital and Health Service and GP Connections join forces to deliver Primary Health Network for Darling Downs and West Moreton**

The region's major public health care provider and GP network have been successful in their bid to deliver the new Primary Health Network (PHN) for the Darling Downs and West Moreton regions.

The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service and GP Connections welcomed the Commonwealth Minister for Health Ms Sussan Ley's announcement that their joint tender had been selected as the preferred applicant to operate the network.

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Acting Board Chair Dr Dennis Campbell said the two organisations were well placed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of health services for patients and communities across the region.

"The PHN's main objective is to improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time," Dr Campbell said.

"We think the established services and networks of the peak General Practitioner body and the local hospital and health service will be able to avoid duplication of services and improve integration of health care systems.

"The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service delivers care from 20 hospitals and six residential care facilities, and manages an annual budget of more than \$620 million so has considerable local experience in the health care sector."

The tender was supported by other key health care providers in the region including the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service and many other community and aged care service providers.

GP Connections Board Chair Dr Roland Owen said there were many opportunities where the two sectors would be able to improve care, especially to address primary health care issues such as chronic disease and obesity.

"Patients and communities are the core focus of the PHN's activities and the two groups have a proven track record of understanding and responding to local health care needs," Dr Owen said.

"It has been widely recognised that primary health care must be focussed and led by GPs to achieve the best outcomes for individuals and the wider community."

The Darling Downs West Moreton PHN will be operated by a separate board formed by the two organisations and will include clinical councils and community advisory committees as part of its governance framework. It is expected to begin formal operations from 1 July 2015.

**Ends**

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