

MEDIA RELEASE

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Chinchilla Hospital continues to care for patients in wake of major hail storm damage

Staff have rallied at Chinchilla Hospital to ensure patients have been well cared for after a severe hail storm caused considerable infrastructure damage at the facility late yesterday afternoon.

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service Executive Director Workforce and Infrastructure Mr Mick Metcalfe commended the local teams who maintained the operation of the facility despite the trying conditions.

“In the interests of patient comfort and in support of the recovery arrangement, six inpatients were transferred to Dalby Hospital and will be returned to Chinchilla Hospital or discharged as soon as tomorrow,” he said.

“Many of the hospital’s windows were smashed and the roof damaged which saw significant water inundation throughout the facility.”

Mr Metcalfe said emergency department and maternity services remained operational at Chinchilla Hospital after the damage occurred, with full hospital services expected to resume tomorrow.

“Earlier today we completed a comprehensive review of the facility and discussed with staff the plan to get all services up and running again.

“Numerous contractors have been onsite today checking electrical systems, replacing and securing windows and glass, clearing hail and water from roof areas and checking and replacing ICT equipment, amongst things.”

He said it was likely to be several weeks until the full extent of the damage to Chinchilla Hospital was known as water had entered the roof and wall spaces in many sections of the facility.

Phone lines, computer servers and electricity were all restored to normal operation today.

Ends

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