

MEDIA RELEASE

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Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board Chair welcomes two new members

Six members have been appointed to join the Board of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service to take effect today.

Mr Mike Horan AM has been reappointed as Chair, Dr Dennis Campbell will continue as Deputy Chair, and Ms Megan O'Shannessy and Ms Marie Pietsch have been reappointed as Board members in this round.

They are joined by two new members, Ms Corinne Butler and Dr Ruth Terwijn. Board members Dr Ross Hetherington, Ms Cheryl Dalton and Ms Trish Leddington-Hill were reappointed in May 2014 for a four-year term.

Mr Horan said he was honoured to continue as Board Chair.

"I believe one of the strengths of the Board structure since July 2012 has been having strong representation from rural communities and that is set to continue with both the continuing and new Board members," Mr Horan said.

"I welcome to the Board Warwick resident Corinne Butler, who has a background in business and human resources and is the Chair of Destination Southern Downs, and Dr Ruth Terwijn, an accomplished academic who has authored many publications and lectured at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba.

"They join an experienced and dedicated Board that is committed to improving patient care and supporting staff development.

"We are very proud of the health service's achievements over the past four years in meeting national targets for access to emergency treatment, on-time elective surgery, no-one waiting longer than clinically recommended for an outpatient appointment, and reduced waits for dental treatment."

Mr Horan said hosting every second Board meeting in a rural area had worked well in setting the health service's direction.

"We will continue to travel right across the health service to hear first-hand from staff and local stakeholders about the issues that affect them.

"This level of engagement has helped inform some of the Board's funding decisions to support projects such as Stanthorpe Hospital's maternity unit refurbishment and Goondiwindi's palliative care room."

Mr Horan commended the work of outgoing Board members Dr Jeff Prebble, who has retired, and Terry Fleischfresser.

“I would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment on the Board since its inception in July 2012. Their contribution has been greatly valued.”

Ends

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