

MEDIA RELEASE

13 January 2016

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service farewells Chief Executive

THE Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) staff, executive and Board directors have bid farewell to their former Chief Executive Dr Peter Bristow today.

Dr Bristow, who has been in the role for three-and-a-half years and with the health service for 14 years, was farewelled at an afternoon tea attended by many of his health service colleagues.

DDHHS Board Chair Mr Mike Horan praised Dr Bristow for his passion and commitment to improving services and access to health care for residents living across the Darling Downs, Southern Downs, Western Downs and South Burnett.

“Dr Bristow has been at the helm of the DDHHS since the appointment of the Board in 2012,” Mr Horan said.

“Under his leadership, the health service has made significant achievements and milestones including reaching national targets set to reduce waiting lists for elective surgeries, outpatients and improving emergency department throughputs. Additionally, the health service has reached targets set to reduce waiting lists for dental services and increased the number of breast screens performed.

“The DDHHS is financially sound and has achieved an annual surplus, which has been reinvested to fund additional services, new facilities and new equipment.

“The health service has also been accredited under two major accreditation organisations and was the first hospital and health service in the state to achieve no patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for specialist outpatient appointments.

“On top of all the clinical achievements, Dr Bristow has also helped to develop strong teamwork among staff members, ensuring that patients and communities are receiving quality health care.

“On behalf of DDHHS Board, I thank Dr Bristow for his outstanding contributions and wish him all the very best in his future endeavours as he tackles new and different challenges.”

Dr Bristow will continue his career in Townsville.

Current Toowoomba Hospital General Manager Dr Peter Gillies will act as the DDHHS Chief Executive from tomorrow, 14 January, while the Board undertakes a comprehensive internal and external recruitment process to appoint a replacement Chief Executive. Recruitment is expected to take up to three months.

Ends

MEDIA: Contact Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service Media Team 4699 8547, 0438 702 328 or DDHHS_media@health.qld.gov.au