

MEDIA RELEASE

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Goondiwindi Hospital cooks up new kitchen

A \$400,000 project to upgrade and refurbish the Goondiwindi Hospital kitchen is now complete.

The project included the installation of new flooring, ceiling, stainless steel bench tops, storage shelving and two air conditioners.

During the refurbishments, the kitchen was temporarily relocated to an unused area of the hospital.

The idea to find an alternative area with the hospital, to continue with the preparation of the meals during the works, was carried out by hospital staff members. The temporary set-up met all workplace health and safety guidelines, as well as food safety requirements.

Goondiwindi Hospital Director of Nursing Lorraine McMurtrie praised staff for coming up with ideas to ensure the smooth operation of the kitchen during the project.

"The staff in the kitchen do a wonderful job of preparing and cooking fresh meals for our patients," Lorraine said.

"They have also done a great job of suggesting ways to accommodate the kitchen project.

"They were supportive of the temporary kitchen idea and action plan.

"We also had excellent engagement of two local companies, Jason Ross Plumbing and Laser Electrical".

Operational Services Officer Helen Death said they had been back in the new kitchen for three to four weeks now and everything was going well.

"We had a bit of trial and error to start with to work out how to make the best use of the new space but I think we've got a good flow going now," she said.

Fact box:

Did you know?

- The Goondiwindi Hospital kitchen prepares 95 per cent of the food served to patients
- Each day cooks prepare three meals plus morning and afternoon teas
- Patients' favourite dishes include rissoles, corned meat and sausages

Ends

Photo caption: Operational Services Officers Enid Sloss and Helen Death in the shiny new kitchen at Goondiwindi Hospital.

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