

## MEDIA RELEASE

18 February 2016

### Patient bus service between South Burnett and Toowoomba Hospital starts

A new specific patient-transfer bus has swung into action this week between South Burnett hospitals and Toowoomba Hospital.

South Burnett Cluster Operations Manager Ms Peta Rutherford said the free bus service was created in response to community feedback on the lack of public transport to access health services in Toowoomba.

“Toowoomba Hospital is the South Burnett’s normal referral hospital for most specialist services, however as many patients need transport assistance we often have to send them to Brisbane for their appointments,” Ms Rutherford said.

“While the Purser’s bus service is used by many people in the area to part of the way to Brisbane, patients with mobility issues have said it can be difficult for them when they have to change over to the train at Caboolture.

“Many patients have relied on friends or family to drive them to their specialist appointments, so this hospital-to-hospital service will help make it easier for both patients and their support network.”

The bus operates Monday to Friday, except for public holidays, to a specific timetable to pick up passengers from Cherbourg, Murgon, Wondai, Kingaroy and Nanango hospitals as needed.

“Patients need to have a confirmed medical or allied health appointment at Toowoomba Hospital and booked a seat by midday the day before travel to access the bus service,” Ms Rutherford said.

“The bus is able to take up to two people in wheel chairs, and can fit baby capsules and child seats provided by Kingaroy Hospital if needed.

“Carer escorts can also be accommodated if the patient’s treating doctor advises one is needed.

“We think this will be a huge benefit to patients to help them access the care they need.”

More information is available by phoning 4162 9284 during business hours or emailing [SBPatientTransport@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:SBPatientTransport@health.qld.gov.au).

The current timetable is:

#### **South Burnett to Toowoomba**

6.40am	Cherbourg Hospital Departure front entrance
6.50am	Murgon Hospital Departure front entrance
7.10am	Wondai Health Service Departure front entrance

- 7.30am Drop off of Renal Patients. Passengers going onto Toowoomba will be dropped at front of Kingaroy Hospital.
- 8.00am Kingaroy Hospital departure - passengers to be collected at the bottom of the ramp leading up to main entrance at front of hospital.
- 8.15am Nanango Hospital Departure – passengers to wait at the pergola at the front of the hospital.
- 10.15am Arrival at Toowoomba Hospital

**Toowoomba to South Burnett**

- 2.15pm Departure Toowoomba Hospital
- 4.05pm Drop off at Nanango Hospital
- 4.30pm Arrival at Kingaroy
- 4.30- 5.30pm Drop offs at Wondai, Murgon & Cherbourg Hospitals.

**Ends**

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