

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cherbourg staff member receives health-service wide award

CHERBOURG Health Service Manager Tarita Fisher has been presented with the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service's Recognition of Excellence in Service Delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff Award.

The prestigious award was presented by DDHHS Board member Cheryl Dalton at yesterday's NAIDOC week health expo in Cherbourg.

"This DDHHS-wide award recognises the exceptional work of one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander staff member," Ms Dalton said.

"We received nominations for this year's awards from right across our health service which stretches from the South Burnett, down to Goondiwindi in the south and west to Taroom and Wandoan.

"The award is an opportunity to highlight and acknowledge the outstanding work being done by our staff members to provide excellent health care in our communities."

A panel of three DDHHS staff members considered each of the 18 nominations to look for a person who was inspirational, made a significant impact to health care in their work, went above and beyond their role and was respected by their colleagues and clients.

As a proud Aboriginal woman, Ms Fisher was recognised for her dedication and drive to improve the health of her community.

"For Tarita, Cherbourg is not just a work place. It is a home. She has a deep spiritual connection to this town and its people," Ms Dalton said.

"This connection drives her work and we, as a health service, benefit from this connection everyday."

Awards were also presented across the DDHHS to non-Indigenous staff members who also have worked hard to support their communities.

These staff members were nominated by their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues.

The Recognition of Excellence in Service Delivered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community were presented to Lorraine McMurtrie in Goondiwindi, Bridget Hogarth in Millmerran, Taygen Tucker in Kingaroy, Maree Wylie in Dalby and Sharon Lock in Cherbourg.

As a clinical nurse in Cherbourg, Ms Lock was nominated by Community Health Manager Christine Stewart for her dedication to immunisation.

“Sharon has a long association with Cherbourg and the health service,” Ms Dalton said.

“Sharon was recognised today for her work with community members, and the respect she shows Cherbourg’s elders, families, young mothers and children when carrying out her duties as a clinical nurse.

“She is also credited with contributing to the very high immunisation rates in Cherbourg.”

Ms Fisher and Ms Lock’s names were added to two plaques.

“Both Sharon and Tarita’s names are the first names etched into two plaques that will now be on display in Cherbourg,” Ms Dalton said.

The awards were presented during Cherbourg’s annual health expo which is held each year during NAIDOC week.

The expo this year was supported by the DDHHS and the Aboriginal Community Interest Consultative Committee.

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Caption: Tarita Fisher (left) and Sharon Lock were recognised for their outstanding contribution to the health and wellbeing of the Cherbourg community at a NAIDOC week Health Expo. The pair is congratulated by Senior Health Worker Cecil Brown.

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