MEDIA RELEASE

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Community and businesses contribute to Oakey Hospital’s palliative care suite

The generosity of the local community was celebrated today during the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board’s visit to the Oakey Hospital.

DDHH Board Chair Mr Mike Horan praised the ongoing support from the Oakey community and local businesses, which most recently has resulted in the renovation of the hospital’s palliative care suite.

The $60,000 project has enabled patients to access end-of-life care in a dedicated space away from other hospital rooms.

“Led by the Friends of the Dr EAF McDonald Nursing Home, this project has seen a previously under-used space turned into a quiet and dignified palliative care suite,” Mr Horan said.

“Many community members and businesses have contributed to this project.

“Over the course of several months, the room was completely gutted, the carpets were replaced, the painting was redone and new bi-fold doors were installed.

“Thanks to the support of New Hope Coal, a specialised palliative care bed worth $9000 was purchased as well as new pull-out sofa lounges and sitting chairs worth $4000.

“Additionally, the ‘Friends of McDonald’ have purchased and recently installed curtains and other soft furnishings to complete the room.”

Mr Horan said other local businesses donated items for the suite’s kitchenette area.

“This community-led project ensures people, who require palliative care, can remain in their local community and be close to their support networks,” Mr Horan said.

“On behalf of the staff, patients and residents of the Oakey Hospital, as well as the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board I would like to thank the community for their continued support of this rural facility.”

During the visit, Mr Horan also unveiled a plaque that acknowledges the community’s support of the palliative care suite.

Background

The DDHH Board met at the Oakey Hospital for its regular monthly meeting which is held in a rural location every second month.
The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS), which includes Oakey Hospital, covers approximately 90,000 square kilometres, around one-and-a-half times the size of Tasmania.

The DDHHS delivers care from 20 hospitals and six residential care facilities, and manages an annual budget of more than $640 million.

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