

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Board members tour Goondiwindi Hospital's new kitchen

The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board have toured the Goondiwindi Hospital's new kitchen as part of the visit to the region yesterday.

The \$400,000 project was completed at the end of last year and features new flooring, ceiling, stainless steel bench tops, storage shelving and two air conditioners.

DDHH Board Deputy Chair Dr Dennis Campbell praised staff who worked hard during the project to ensure the hospital could continue to supply its residents and patients with meals prepared onsite.

"Rather than opting to outsource their hospital meals during the renovations works, staff came up with a plan to temporarily relocate the food preparation area," Dr Campbell said.

"A previously unused part of the hospital became the makeshift kitchen which met all workplace health and safety guidelines as well as food safety requirements.

"It is testament to the resourcefulness of staff in the DDHHS's rural and remote facilities."

Goondiwindi Hospital Director of Nursing and Facility Manager Lorraine McMurtrie said operational staff did a wonderful job of preparing 95 per cent of the food served to patients.

"Each day the hospital's cooks prepare three meals a day plus morning and afternoon teas," Ms McMurtrie said.

Local companies Jason Ross Plumbing and Laser Electrical undertook the kitchen refurbishment after a public tender process. The project was funded through the state-wide Backlog Remediation and Backlog Program.

### Background

The DDHH Board met at the Goondiwindi Hospital for its regular monthly meeting which is held in a rural location every second month. Yesterday Board members visited the Millmerran Multipurpose Health Service to officially open its new \$10,549 telehealth suite. The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS), which includes Goondiwindi 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.

### Ends

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