MEDIA RELEASE

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State-of-the-art birthing suites opened in Stanthorpe

Expectant mothers in Stanthorpe and the Southern Downs now have access to state-of-the-art facilities after two purpose-built birthing suites were officially opened at Stanthorpe Hospital today.

Minister for Health Lawrence Springborg officially opened the two new rooms, congratulating the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board and local community groups for their efforts in making this a reality.

“I am very honoured to be able to officially open these suites today and commend the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board for its commitment to providing improved health care to expectant mothers in the Southern Downs,” Mr Springborg said.

“I’d like to say a special thank you to Director of Nursing Lesley Shannon and the team at Stanthorpe Hospital, and also the local Mothers United for Maternity Services Stanthorpe (MUMSS) group, and the Community Consultative Committee, for their input during the process.

“The layout, furnishings and colour scheme in the rooms help to exude an atmosphere of calm and relaxation, which will be much appreciated by mothers having their babies here at Stanthorpe Hospital.”

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board Chair Mr Mike Horan said the $1.1 million maternity suite refurbishment had been funded by the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service from a budget surplus.

“The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board is committed to investing in local hospital infrastructure to better meet the needs of the community,” Mr Horan said.

“It was very pleasing to be able to use funds from a 2012-13 community dividend to provide these outstanding new facilities.

“We were also very pleased to be able to partner with a local company, FBC Constructions, to complete the work on the new birthing suites.

“The suites are of a standard equal to what you would find in the most modern facilities in the country, providing entirely new levels of privacy and comfort.”

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