

## MEDIA RELEASE

2 October 2015

### **Darling Downs and South Burnett hospitals deliver more care to patients**

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) has again delivered more care to communities in 2014-15.

Board Chair Mr Mike Horan said the health service's annual report, tabled in Parliament this week, detailed many examples of improved health services and great care.

"Our staff have worked consistently to reduce waiting lists for our services, and improve timeframes for patients to receive the care they need, while also maintaining a focus on quality and safety," Mr Horan said.

"For the second year in a row, DDHHS provided more services than funded to do under our contract with the Department of Health.

"This is good news for our patients, their families, and the communities we serve."

Some key highlights from the year included:

- Achievement of National Elective Surgery Target (NEST) where no patients waited longer than clinically recommended for surgery (achieved December 2014).
- Reduction of specialist outpatient waiting lists with 5028 fewer patients waiting on Toowoomba Hospital's specialist outpatients' waiting list.
- Exceeding the Queensland Emergency Access Target (QEAT) for 90 per cent of patients admitted to a ward, transferred or discharged within four hours across all our facilities.
- Introduction of a new online training platform, called Darling Downs Learning On-Line, to support staff professional development.
- Delivered a record number of endoscopies so that by May 2015 no patients waited longer than clinically recommended.
- Significant infrastructure improvements for local facilities.
- Maintaining accreditation against the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards and National Standards for Mental Health Services (NSMHS) under two certification bodies.
- Being a successful bid partner, with GP Connections, to operate the new primary health network for the Darling Downs and West Moreton.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Mr Cameron Dick welcomed the achievements outlined in the DDHHS annual report.

"The people of the Darling Downs and South Burnett are in good hands when it comes to public healthcare," Mr Dick said.

"I'd like to thank the staff: doctors, nurses and midwives, allied health professionals, and all the support staff who achieved these results and work hard to operate our modern healthcare service."

**Fast facts/Did you know?**

**197** people a day are discharged from DDHHS facilities after receiving in-patient care

**409** people a day are treated in DDHHS emergency departments

**728** elective surgeries are performed a month

**254** babies are delivered a month

**1 in 56** people on the Darling Downs/South Burnett work for DDHHS

**1.2M kg** of linen was processed at Baillie Henderson Hospital's laundry in 2014-15

**Attachment: DDHHS year at a glance**

**MEDIA:** Contact Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service Media Team 4699 8547, 0438 702 328 or [DDHHS\\_media@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:DDHHS_media@health.qld.gov.au)