

MEDIA RELEASE

5 May, 2015

Three-in-a-row celebrated on International Day of the Midwife

Every year on 5 May the work of the world's midwives is celebrated with International Day of the Midwife.

Robyn Henderson, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) Executive Director for Nursing and Midwifery Services, said the role of midwives could not be over-stated.

"Midwives make an outstanding contribution throughout the DDHHS, and we look forward to celebrating their efforts on 5 May," Ms Henderson said.

"They are such a valued part of our communities, particularly in rural and regional centres, and they are in a privileged position, as their work revolves around bringing new life into the world.

"Midwifery is a truly rewarding profession and one that we would love to see more people entering into."

This year the day took on extra significance for the team in Toowoomba Hospital's Harbison Maternity Unit.

"Midwifery is an integral part of the service provided by our HHS so 5 May is always an important date on our calendar," said Ms Peta Zupp, Maternity Unit Manager at Toowoomba Hospital.

"This year we have an extra reason to celebrate, because for the third year in succession the Johnson's Baby Midwife of the Year for Queensland has been awarded to a midwife from Toowoomba Hospital, with this year's winner being Donna Cooper.

"We would like to thank Johnson & Johnson for their support of our event, and also say a special thank you to the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation (THF) for its ongoing support of midwifery," Ms Zupp said.

Dr Peter Gillies, General Manager Toowoomba Hospital, congratulated Ms Cooper on the win.

"It's a tremendous achievement to be recognised at a state level, and one that Donna can take great pride in," Dr Gillies said.

"On behalf of all Toowoomba Hospital staff I would like to offer our sincere congratulations."

There were more than 3,100 births across the DDHHS in 2013-14, with almost 2,000 of those coming through Toowoomba Hospital. Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service operates 20 hospitals and six residential aged care facilities, servicing a population of more than 300,000.

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