

This year's milestones



NAIDOC week

Following a week of celebrations across various facilities in the DDHHS, the NAIDOC Week Award for Excellence in Service Delivery was presented to Cherbourg Health Service Manager, Ms Tarita Fisher (left).



Joint emergency preparedness exercise a success

A joint disaster exercise was held between Toowoomba Hospital and St. Vincent's Private Hospital to test staff's response to a large-scale disaster.



Rural Generalist Program turns 10

This program is recognised nationally for enhancing the rural medical workforce.

Primary Health Network starts operations

Darling Downs and West Moreton Primary Health Network (DDWM PHN) started on 1 July 2015. The PHN is jointly operated by the DDHHS and GP Connections.

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Drs Roger and Jill Guard farewellled

Memorial service held for Dr Roger Guard and Dr Jill Guard, respected members of the Toowoomba healthcare community who tragically lost their lives in the MH17 disaster.



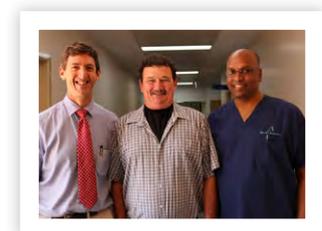
Mental health nurse participates in Black Dog Ride

Baillie Henderson Hospital mental health nurse, Rob McGrigor participates in Black Dog Ride across the Red Centre to raise funds and increase mental health awareness



Highly specialised robotic ENT surgery performed

World first robotic ENT surgery performed in a regional setting on a public patient, in partnership with St Andrews Hospital Toowoomba. The surgery involved the removal of the voice box and insertion of a new speaking valve.



Consumer representative joins committee to improve patient care

Toowoomba Hospital welcomed a new community representative member on its Patient Safety and Quality Committee.



Legislation passes in State Parliament to implement new nurse-to-patient ratios.

Toowoomba Hospital enrolled nurse Lauren Picker travelled to Brisbane to witness the historic move.



Good news for Goondiwindi mums

Goondiwindi Hospital receives official accreditation under the national Baby Friendly Health Initiative



Goondiwindi's upgraded kitchen delivers first meals

Goondiwindi Hospital kitchen upgrade and refurbishment is completed.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Healthy Minds Expo held in Tara

Over 50 people attended the event, which focused on healthy lifestyles, chronic disease management and promotion of telehealth services.



New radiology services for Warwick and Goondiwindi

Expanded radiology service opens at Warwick and Goondiwindi Hospitals

Miles ahead in staff recognition

Miles Hospital staff members received Strategic Operational Service Unit awards for excellence in state-wide program.



New cardiac ultrasound service starts

Toowoomba Hospital announces start of full-time cardiac ultrasound service, which will mean fewer patients have to travel elsewhere to receive specialist medical treatment.

This year's milestones



Closing the Gap pledge signed by the DDHHS Executive

The pledge was made on the 10th anniversary of the Closing the Gap campaign. The DDHHS is committed to improving health outcomes for its Indigenous communities.

New theatre announced for Toowoomba Hospital

\$8.1 million announced for the construction of a seventh operating theatre at Toowoomba Hospital.

Consumers engaged to improve the service

DDHHS Consumer Council established. The Council will engage with communities, advisory groups and patients to improve communication, healthcare outcomes for our patients and the service that we provide.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Service (AODS) team settle into newly refurbished office

Fountain House 1 was officially opened for the new AODS office accommodation at Toowoomba Hospital.

Record number of medical interns start across the DDHHS

The DDHHS welcomed a total of 39 new medical graduates this year.

New nursing graduates start

48 graduate nurses started across the DDHHS.



Patient travel set to become easier for South Burnett Patients

The DDHHS has implemented a free shuttle bus for patients in the South Burnett region that need to attend specialist appointments in Toowoomba.



Accreditation affirms safe and quality care

DDHHS moved to a single accreditation process under the ISO: 9001 Quality Management Standard and achieved ongoing certification in March 2016.



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

Annual Employee Awards a success

Over 100 nominations received across seven categories, with the awards recognising the outstanding efforts of our dedicated staff.



New resident brings joy to aged care patients

Sammy the greyhound comes to live at Mt Lofty Heights Nursing Home and has been warmly welcomed by all residents.

Dental waiting lists slashed

The lists were slashed by over 54 per cent resulting in no patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for treatment.



Long-serving staff members honoured

86 staff members honoured for 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service with the DDHHS. Collectively the staff have clocked up 2845 years of service.

No patients have waited longer than clinically recommended for treatment

By the end of June, the DDHHS had zero patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for elective surgery, endoscopy and specialist outpatient appointments for the entire 12 month period. For elective surgery this marked 2 1/2 years in which there had been zero long wait patients.



Board welcomes new members

Ms Corinne Butler and Dr Ruth Terwijn joined the Board.

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

Board farewells retiring member, Dr Jeff Prebble OAM

Dr Prebble, respected paediatrician with a work history spanning 37 years, retired from the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board in May. A farewell luncheon was held in his honour.



New SAFE Modules implemented

New tailor-made SAFE audit modules implemented to measure clinical performance and focus on safe and quality care.



New Health Service Chief Executive announced

The DDHHS welcomed Dr Peter Gillies to the role of HSCE in May. Dr Gillies, as the previous General Manager Toowoomba Hospital, has a strong track record in delivering efficient services and improving patient care.



Miles Hospital welcomes new infrastructure announcement

The Board announced the allocation of \$2.6 million for refurbishments at Miles Hospital. The project will include four new 2 bedroom units of accommodation and refurbishment of the community health building for the private practice clinic.