

MEDIA RELEASE

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Fountain House renovations officially opened

DARLING Downs Hospital and Health Board Chair Mike Horan has praised a number of local companies who have worked to renovate one of Toowoomba Hospital's most visible buildings.

The renovation at Fountain House 1, which faces James Street, was officially opened by Mr Horan today.

The \$2.86 million project has resulted in the extensive refurbishment of the building's first and second level to accommodate the hospital's Alcohol and Other Drugs Service.

Funding for the project was provided through the state-wide Backlog Maintenance and Remediation Program and Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service capital funds.

"Fountain House was initially used as nurses' quarters in the 1950s," Mr Horan said.

"Over the decades the building was used as onsite staff accommodation until some of the hospital's mental health services were relocated to the building 10 years ago.

"These most recent renovations have now created purpose-built office space and consultation rooms for staff and clients of the hospital's Alcohol and Other Drugs Service."

Mr Horan said a number of local companies underwent a merit-based, public tender process to carry out the renovation works.

"It was pleasing that these local companies were successful. The work has taken into consideration the building's history to create a modern, fit-for-purpose environment."

Local companies that undertook the work included Northbuild Constructions, Sims White Architects and Burke Industries (internal demolition).

The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service's Alcohol and Other Drugs Service provides a broad range of services including assessment, treatment and education to anyone seeking help for any form of drug and/or alcohol-related harm.

On average the service provides 15,000 "occasions of service" to individuals and their families each year.

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