

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Toowoomba Hospital's Guiding Stars celebrate 10 years

A decade of service was commemorated by past and present members of Toowoomba Hospital's Guiding Stars today.

Dr Dennis Campbell, deputy chair of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board congratulated the Guiding Stars on ten years of achievement.

"The Guiding Stars play an integral part in the services our volunteers provide here at Toowoomba Hospital," Dr Campbell said.

"To those past and present Guiding Stars here today, you are carrying on a proud tradition and I'd like you to know the work you do is very sincerely appreciated.

"Coming to hospital can be a stressful experience, especially for anyone who is unfamiliar with the hospital, but having the Guiding Stars here to let visitors and patients know that they are welcome, and that we are here to help them, has been a wonderful addition to our service.

"This is a very special occasion and what makes it even more significant is the fact that out of the 27 volunteers we have who are currently Guiding Stars, seven of those have been Guiding Stars since 2006.

"I would like to say a special thank you and congratulations to those seven originals – Kathy Bom, Barbara Collings, Jean Dellit, Katie Fleming, Lyn Ham Daphne Koschel, and Barb Mathews.

"You have all shown great dedication and I hope you and your fellow Guiding Stars continue to enjoy what you're doing for many years to come."

Toowoomba Hospital Foundation CEO Alison Kennedy said the Guiding Stars were a credit to the hospital.

"The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation has been a supporter of the Guiding Stars since the service started in 2006," Mrs Kennedy said.

"They are very often the first point of contact for people coming into the hospital and the work they do in welcoming and helping people find their way around is invaluable.

"On behalf of the foundation I would like to offer our sincere congratulations on ten years of a job well done, to those seven original team members who have been here since 2006, to the other twenty current Guiding Stars, and to all those who have come before them."

Sam Savva, manager for volunteer and consumer participation services paid tribute to his Ms Sandy Hilder, who was volunteer and consumer participation coordinator when the Guiding Stars started in 1996. Ms Hilder is now in the role of quality improvement coordinator with the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service clinical governance team.

"Sandy was there, with the original Guiding Stars, back in 2006 and it's wonderful to have her here with us today," Mr Savva said.

"Without the hard work she put in to get to get the Guiding Stars up and running back in '06 we wouldn't be where we are today."

## **Ends**

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