Residents of Gympie and surrounding areas will now benefit from the very latest local advancements in Telehealth. Telehealth Cardiac services will be launched from Gympie Hospital on 1 August 2014 and for cardiac patient Michelle Bambling, this will mean she no longer has to travel to Nambour General Hospital to receive high quality cardiology services.

Michelle and her Cardiologist Professor Kim Greaves will have a consultation via Telehealth, where her medical history and treatments will be discussed as if it was a face to face appointment.

The consultation will involve live interaction between Michelle and Professor Greaves via a secure video conference link between Gympie Hospital and Nambour Hospital.

Amy Holmes, Telehealth Coordinator for the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS), said the launch is a very exciting step in providing expanded services to patients in rural areas.

“Telehealth allows patients to interact with their health care professionals without the need to travel too far from their place of residence.

“The technology alleviates the burden of travel, and increases access to medical services particularly for patients living in rural areas,” Ms Holmes said.

A member of the clinical team is present for all Telehealth appointments to assist patients.

Chief Executive Kevin Hegarty said the Telehealth network within Queensland Health is expanding each year to deliver more services. The SCHHS is pleased to support the Queensland Health Strategic Plan 2011-2015 to:

- drive innovation to improve health service delivery in rural and regional communities
- expand the capacity and increased usage of Telehealth technology.
“Our aim within the SCHHS is to incorporate Telehealth into everyday services to make them more readily available and therefore easier for patients to access.

“Such links between Nambour Hospital based specialists and Gympie residents will ensure the health care needs of Gympie residents can be readily facilitated through Telehealth,” Mr Hegarty said.

ENDS

Media opportunities:

1. 31 July – pre Telehealth launch interview with Dr Kim Greaves, Cardiologist at Nambour General Hospital, Level 2, Medical Outpatients Department

2. 1 August - Gympie Hospital, interview with patient Michelle Bambling

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