

MEDIA RELEASE

24 February, 2016

New telehealth suite opens at Millmerran Multipurpose Health Service

The Millmerran Multipurpose Health Service's new telehealth suite was officially opened on 22 February by the Darling Downs Hospital and Health (DDHH) Board.

The new suite features state-of-the-art telehealth equipment which enables patients of the facility, as well as members of the community, to conduct medical consultations with specialists located in larger centres.

The equipment is based around the concept of video-conferencing and reduces the need for people to travel for medical appointments.

Staff from the hospital are also available to participate in or supervise the telehealth appointments, if necessary.

"The need for a fit-for-purpose, private telehealth suite was identified by the Millmerran MPHS's Community Advisory Network," Director of Nursing Cath Frame said.

"Previously the telehealth equipment was located in a multipurpose room in a busy part of the facility.

"This renovated suite is away from the main thoroughfare of the facility and enables a better experience for patients or community members accessing our services."

The \$10,549 suite was officially opened by DDHH Board Members and Deputy Chair Dr Dennis Campbell.

"The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service is one of the state's leaders in the use of telehealth technologies," Dr Campbell said.

"In the last financial year, there were 4459 occasions where outpatients from across our health service participated in a telehealth consultation. Year-to-date there have 2408 occasions of service.

"This technology enables people to stay in their communities, surrounded by friends, family or their support networks, while receiving quality health care.

"Telehealth usage is increasing across the health service and across the state. And this suite in Millmerran will help facilitate this growth."

Background

The DDHH Board's visit to Millmerran this week was part of their broader tour of the Southern Downs and border region.

The Board conducted their usual monthly meeting, which is held at a rural hospital every second month, at the Goondiwindi Hospital on Tuesday 23 February.

The DDHHS covers approximately 90,000 square kilometres, around one-and-a-half times the size of Tasmania.

The DDHHS delivers care from 20 hospitals and six residential care facilities, and manages an annual budget of more than \$640 million.

Ends

MEDIA: *Contact Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service Media Team 4699 8547, 0438 702 328 or DDHHS_media@health.qld.gov.au*