

MEDIA RELEASE

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Exciting infrastructure plans announced for Miles Hospital

Miles Hospital will undergo a number of significant infrastructure upgrades, Darling Downs Hospital and Health (DDHH) Board Chair, Mr Mike Horan announced at today's Board meeting.

The DDHH Board held its regular monthly meeting in the Western Downs town and used the opportunity to highlight two large-scale projects, worth over \$2.5 million, planned for the local hospital over the next 12 months.

Firstly, the town's private general practice medical centre, currently located in Pine Street, will move to the hospital site and the construction of purpose-built staff accommodation will begin later this year.

"A building currently at the hospital will be refurbished to create a purpose-built general practice clinic," Mr Horan said.

"The building will also incorporate space for the hospital's visiting allied health workers.

"This primary health hub will also enable medical officers to provide a quick response to the hospital's patients in an emergency situation and patients of the medical practice will be able to easily attend the hospital for x-ray services, if needed."

Mr Horan said the refurbishment was expected to cost nearly \$900,000.

"Additionally, we also announced plans today, to construct modern, self-contained units at the hospital," Mr Horan said.

"This will require the demolition of the current nurses' quarters and staff accommodation building which were built in 1961. Refurbishment of this old building was considered, however, it was found not to be cost effective."

The new building will feature eight self-contained rooms and will offer accommodation options for health workers visiting Miles as well as the Western Downs area.

The anticipated \$1.7 million project is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

"These significant projects will have a great impact not only on the patients and staff of the Miles Hospital but also the greater Miles community," Mr Horan said.

"The DDHH Board's investment in the Western Downs is testament of our vision to deliver excellence in rural and regional healthcare."

Tenders for work associated with these projects have been undertaken by Building and Asset Services, on behalf of the DDHHS.

Background

The DDHH Board met at the Miles Hospital today for its regular monthly meeting which is held in a rural location every second month.

The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS), which includes Miles Hospital, 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 \$670 million.

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