**Good medicine for local economy**

The Townsville Hospital and Health Service (HHS) has ended 2015-2016 treating more patients in communities across North Queensland than ever before.

Townsville Hospital and Health Board Chair Tony Mooney said he was very proud of the work done across the region by more than 5,000 full-time staff treating hundreds of thousands of patients in hospitals, community health services and clinics from Cardwell to Home Hill and west to Richmond.

During the 2015-2016 financial year, the Townsville HHS performed 8,292 elective surgical operations, admitted more than 75,000 people to hospitals and delivered 2,750 babies.

“In addition to delivering high-quality and compassionate care, the health service is also the region’s largest civilian employer,” Mr Mooney said.

“We employ one in 50 North Queenslanders and our wages bill alone contributes more than $50 million a month into the local economy.”

Mr Mooney said the health service had adopted a prudent approach to financial management.

“The budget finished with a modest surplus of $1.5 million,” he said.

“In 2016-2017 we have approved an $868 million balanced operating budget.

“Additionally, $78.7 million has been earmarked in the budget for infrastructure, equipment and maintenance projects.

“These projects will improve the care we provide to the community and boost the local economy during these tough economic times.”

“A key priority is to improve the children’s ward at The Townsville Hospital. The Queensland Government has come on board with $6.6 million in funding to redevelop and expand the ward into a state-of-the-art paediatric facility. This commitment will make a big difference to the care that we can provide to sick kids.”

Mr Mooney said the health service was also on track to offer more than 369,000 outpatient appointments in the coming year.

“Cutting waiting times for specialist outpatient appointments is a major focus for the 2016-2017 financial year,” he said.

“In addition to delivering high standards of care, the health service and board are looking forward to building stronger ties with our communities to develop and deliver excellent public health care.”

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$78.7 million infrastructure, equipment and maintenance projects in 2016-2017 including:

- **$12.5 million** clinical equipment across our facilities
- **$6.4 million** infrastructure improvements at rural facilities
- **$6.6 million** redevelopment and expansion of The Townsville Hospital children’s ward
- **$16.5 million** new community health centre on Palm Island
- **$12.1 million** 22-bed planned procedure unit at The Townsville Hospital

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$1.57 million Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at The Townsville Hospital

$500 thousand upgrade of residential accommodation at the Townsville Community Care Acquired Brain Injury Unit

$2.25 million expansion of medical imaging department at The Townsville Hospital

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**Where the money goes**

In 2015-2016, the Townsville HHS revenue of $864.4 million was spent as shown below. This included a modest surplus of $1.5 million.

- Employee expenses 71%
- Supplies and services 23%
- Other expenses 1%
- Depreciation and amortisation 5%
- Grants and subsidies 0.4%
Our 2015–2016 achievements

At 30 June 2016, no patient was waiting longer than the clinically recommended time for all three elective surgery categories.

At 30 June 2016, the Townsville HHS maintained its zero long-wait status for general dental treatment.

The $13.5 million refurbishment of the Alec Illin Secure Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit at The Townsville Hospital was completed.

The Townsville HHS’s cochlear implant service marked its first anniversary with 15 children and adults fitted with life-changing cochlear devices.

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The renal unit at the Joyce Palmer Health Service on Palm Island was refurbished and an extra dialysis chair was provided.

The Townsville HHS introduced flexible visiting hours to improve patient care.

Eventide Residential Aged Care Facility achieved accreditation from the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency.

Townsville HHS staff celebrated more than 7,000 years of collective service at length-of-service events.

8,436 emergency department visits

11 beds

732 admissions