MEDIA RELEASE

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Endoscopy patient gets treatment sooner than expected

A public-private partnership between Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) and private endoscopy providers in Toowoomba has helped local residents to receive treatment sooner, while reducing endoscopy waiting lists.

Mrs Judy Hall said she waited less than two months to undergo an endoscopic procedure at Toowoomba Surgicentre as a public patient.

“Within six weeks of seeing a specialist I got a call to let me know there was an appointment for me a couple of weeks later at Toowoomba Surgicentre,” Mrs Hall said.

“It was great to get in early, get it over and done with and not have to worry for a long time,” Mrs Hall said.

“It’s not something you look forward to but since having the procedure I have felt a lot better.”

Mrs Hall also had a vote of thanks for the surgical team at Toowoomba Hospital.

“Last year my husband had appendicitis and then a back operation,” Mrs Hall said.

“His treatment was wonderful on both occasions and I have nothing but good things to say about Toowoomba Hospital.”

DDHHS Chief Executive Dr Peter Bristow said public-private partnerships had worked well in reducing endoscopy waiting lists.

“Our Board has had a clear focus on cutting waiting lists and this is a good example of where public-private partnerships can be part of an effective strategy,” Dr Bristow said.

“It should be noted that with an ageing population there is a continual increase in demand for endoscopy services, however the DDHHS is committed to meeting the challenge head-on.

“We have just announced the awarding of the tender for the construction of the refurbishment and expansion of Toowoomba Hospital’s Endoscopy Department, which will double our capacity to provide endoscopic services.

“We expect the expansion to be completed by mid-2015.”
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