

MEDIA RELEASE

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Jandowae welcomes 'home' new hospital staff members

JANDOWAE Hospital has welcomed two new staff members both with ties to the local community.

Director of Nursing and Facility Manager Leesa Deacon returns to Darling Downs region after a stint in the south west, while Medical Superintendent Luke Dwyer is married to a former Jandowae resident.

Both agree their return to the community feels like a "homecoming".

"I have a history of rural medicine; I spent around 20 years in Dalby followed by four years in Dirranbandi as the director of nursing," Ms Deacon said.

"I enjoy being part of a community and being a part of a holistic approach to health care."

Dr Luke Dwyer started in the medical superintendent role last September after a number of years in Roma. He has advanced skills in emergency medicine and also works as the town's General Practitioner at the Wambo Medical Centre.

"I took up medicine later in life after a 12 year career in accounting," Dr Dwyer said.

"I like science, solving problems and talking to people, and medicine is a good fit for that."

The new staffers are both enjoying their new roles and are excited about strengthening the rural hospital's place in the community.

"Jandowae has a large ageing population with a number of retirees moving into the area recently," Dr Dwyer said.

"We are looking at new and different ways of partnering with other service providers in town, such as the council-run Domiciliary Care and the aged-care facility, Taralga, to ensure we are meeting the needs of the community."

The Jandowae Hospital has 12 beds, including five beds for 'long-stay' residential aged-care residents. It employs seven permanent operation staff, 11 permanent nursing staff, one administration officer and a number of casual staff members.

Alongside providing acute, aged and emergency care, the hospital facilitates visiting health specialists including a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, social worker, dietician and podiatrist. There are also mental health clinics and specialised women's health services.

Ends

Caption: Medical Superintendent Dr Luke Dwyer and Director of Nursing Leesa Deacon have been welcomed to Jandowae Hospital.

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