

MEDIA RELEASE

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Counselling services at Oakey to start this week

Dedicated counselling and mental health support clinics will start this week for Oakey residents who may be impacted by the contamination of groundwater from the Army Aviation Centre.

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) Chief Executive Dr Peter Gillies said experienced counsellors would be available at three clinics a week.

“Initially the clinics will be drop-in style so counsellors can provide information on support options, make appointments for individual or family counselling sessions at future clinics, or provide referrals to other services if needed,” Dr Gillies said.

“Many of the team who will be running the clinics have a lot of experience in helping communities through tough times and have worked on community recovery projects such as the 2011 floods.

“Sessions are free to attend and will be held at Oakey Hospital in Beale Street.”

Dr Gillies said the sessions would provide supportive counselling which aimed to provide personal support, allowing the person to reflect on his or her life situation in a respectful and caring setting.

“Offering dedicated counselling and mental health support is one of the recommendations of a recent Senate report into firefighting foam contamination,” he said.

“The recommendation is also for these services to be in place as long as they are required by residents, and the DDHHS is committed to do that for the people of Oakey.”

More information on the clinics is available by calling Oakey Hospital on (07) 4691 4888 from 8am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday (except public holidays).

Residents who may need mental health support at other times can call 13 Health (13 43 25 84) or the Darling Downs mental health acute care team (24/7) on 4616 5210.

Ends

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