Volunteers celebrate at annual Christmas lunch

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board Deputy Chair Dr Dennis Campbell praised the hundreds of volunteers who generously give their time throughout the year at today’s annual Volunteers’ Christmas Lunch.

More than 100 volunteers and Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) staff were present at the lunch which is a highlight of the volunteers’ calendar.

“Each and every one of our volunteers, and there are more than 260 across the DDHHS, give their own time to help others,” Dr Campbell said.

“Many of our volunteers already lead active and busy lives, so to make time to brighten the days of the patients and visitors at our facilities is a remarkable thing to do.

“Their efforts are very much appreciated and it’s a pleasure to be able to say thank you here today.”

Sam Savva, DDHHS Manager for Volunteer and Consumer Participation Services, said the volunteers provided a range of services.

“Our volunteers play a vital role at Toowoomba Hospital, Baillie Henderson Hospital, Mt Lofty Heights Nursing Home and at a number of our rural facilities,” he said.

“Whether they are involved as Guiding Stars, welcoming and directing visitors around Toowoomba Hospital, delivering newspapers to patients, or providing companionship, the importance of their efforts cannot be overstated.

“There are 193 volunteers helping out in Toowoomba and another 70 in our rural facilities.

“It’s quite amazing to think that the Toowoomba-based volunteers alone have 1141 years of combined service between them, which is a marvellous achievement.”

Mr Savva thanked the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation for its ongoing support and for providing Christmas gifts to each of the volunteers at the lunch.

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MEDIA: Contact Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service Media Team 4699 8725, 0448 996 296 or DDHHS_media@health.qld.gov.au