

Statement on the independent assurance review of Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service's Toowoomba Hospital maternity unit

13 February 2026

Queensland is one of the safest places in the world to give birth due in large part to the dedication of our clinicians to provide a high standard of maternity care.

This includes the hardworking maternity team at Toowoomba Hospital, which delivered almost 2000 babies in 2025.

Queensland Health continually reviews the care it provides to understand what works and what can be improved which is why I am commissioning an independent assurance review into the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service's (HHS) maternity unit at Toowoomba Hospital.

While multiple independent reviews conducted at Toowoomba Hospital last year confirmed high standards of clinical care within the maternity unit, the assurance review is another opportunity to identify if services can be strengthened.

The review will assess and report on Darling Downs HHS' response to recommendations from reviews and investigations into its maternity unit since 2018.

It will also evaluate the adequacy of the complaints process in place at Darling Downs HHS, particularly consumer concerns into maternity outcomes.

The review will be undertaken by an independent panel of experts made up of a clinician, a maternity consumer representative and a workplace and medico-legal expert.

I have full confidence in the panel members, who bring with them a wealth of experience in this space.

The panel's final report will be submitted to me for consideration in May 2026.

I strongly encourage individuals, organisations, clinicians, patients and their families to contribute their experiences to the review to help inform the work of the panel.

Darling Downs residents can and should have complete confidence in the maternity care Toowoomba Hospital delivers and know that when they raise concerns, they will be acted on.

The independent assurance review reinforces this commitment, and I look forward to receiving the panel's findings to help inform Queensland Health's and Darling Downs HHS' approach to maintaining a high standard of maternity care.

Dr David Rosengren

Director-General
Queensland Health