

Governing our organisation

The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board is comprised of 10 non-executive members appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Health, and in accordance with *the Act*.



Back (left to right): Dr Jeffrey Prebble OAM, Dr Dennis Campbell, Dr Ross Hetherington, Dr Ian Keys, Mr Terry Fleischfresser.
Middle: Mr Mike Horan AM, Ms Megan O'Shannessy, Ms Cheryl Dalton, Ms Patricia (Trish) Leddington-Hill.
Front: Ms Marie Pietsch, Dr Peter Bristow Health Service Chief Executive.

Our Board



Mr Mike Horan AM

Board Chair, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board

Mike was the Member for Toowoomba South in the Queensland Parliament from 1991 to 2012.

During his political career Mike served as the leader of the National Party, the leader of the Opposition, Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Police, Health and Primary Industries respectively. Mike regards his time as Minister for Health (1996-1998) as a highlight of his political career.

Mike has considerable experience in the development and construction of small and large health facilities. More than 100 health construction projects varying from rural Hospitals to major metropolitan Hospitals occurred under his Health Ministry.

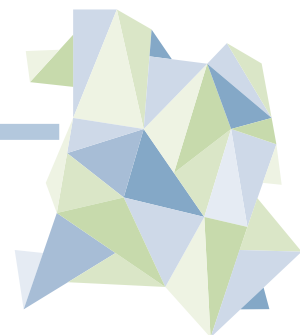
During his time as Health Minister the Surgery on Time System was established, a ten year Mental Health Plan introduced and targets for BreastScreening and Children's Immunisation were set and achieved. Thirty-eight District Health Councils were put in place and the Rural Health Council was established at Roma.

Mike held the position of General Manager of The Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland (Toowoomba Showgrounds) from 1978 to 1991 and was a driving force in the sale of the old inner city Toowoomba Showgrounds and the development of the new Toowoomba Showgrounds on a 98 hectare site. Mike also served as secretary of the Darling Downs sub-chamber of Agricultural Societies, a number of Breed Societies and of the Downs Harness Racing and the Toowoomba Greyhound Racing Club.

Mike is currently a board member of Downs Rugby Ltd, covering rugby union from Gatton to St George and a board member of the Toowoomba Police Citizens Youth Club.

In June 2013 Mike was awarded a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to the Parliament of Queensland and to the community of the Darling Downs.

He is a great believer in working with the community to achieve results.



Dr Dennis Campbell PhD, MBA, FCHSM, CHE, FAIM

Deputy Chair, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board

Dr Dennis Campbell has been a Chief Executive Officer in the public and private sectors and served on numerous boards and advisory committees. He has legal and health qualifications and in 2007 was awarded an Australia Day Medallion for services to the Australian College of Health Service Executives.

Dennis has held the positions of Assistant and Acting Regional Director, in the public sector, as well as Chief Executive Officer at St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba.

Dennis served as Corporate Director with Legal Aid, Queensland for ten years as well as in other executive positions within the Department of Education and Department of Aboriginal and Islander Advancement.

Dennis joined the Heritage Board in 2000. He is currently the Deputy Chairman of the Heritage Bank Board and Chair of the Finance Committee. He also served as a trustee of the Queensland Museum Foundation and as Chairperson on the Management Advisory Committee of the Cobb & Co Museum, Toowoomba.

In 2008, Dennis was awarded the Gold Medal for Leadership and Achievement in Health Services Management, recognising his contribution and professional achievements in shaping healthcare policy at institutional, state and national levels.



Ms Cheryl Dalton

Board Member, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board

Ms Cheryl Dalton is currently the Chief Executive Officer of SBcare a South Burnett provider of aged and disability care services. Previous to this she was a Councillor for the South Burnett Regional Council and former Kingaroy Shire Council with 17 years local government experience as well as being a long-standing member of the Queensland Resource Operating Plan and Moratorium Panels, a Department of Natural Resources and Mines water management and planning entity.

Community involvement includes her executive position on the Links Community Services Board (JobMatch Kingaroy and Gympie), a Disability Employment Service, Chairman of the South Burnett Mayors Community Benefit Fund, as well as the Voluntary Auditor for the Wooroolin Scout Group.

Her business experience includes agribusiness, being a Managing Director of a stockfeed manufacturing business, Goldmix Stockfeeds, from 1993 to 2005 and subsequently working in a consultative role in quality assurance. She is a Managing Director of Dalton Agribusiness, which has interests in agriculture (cattle and pigs), a tractor and dozer parts wholesaling business, and property development.



Dr Jeffrey Prebble OAM

Board Member, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board

Dr Jeff Prebble is a respected Paediatrician with extensive medical experience in public and private hospitals across Toowoomba and Brisbane. Jeff is a member of several health-related committees and professional organisations, and has published numerous papers.

Jeff currently holds a number of key positions in the medical community. He is a consultant Paediatrician in private practice in Toowoomba and Visiting Paediatrician at Toowoomba Hospital. Previously Jeff has held positions as Senior Visiting Consultant in Department of Paediatrics, Head of Department of Paediatrics and Chairman of Division of Infants, Children and Youth at Toowoomba Base Hospital.

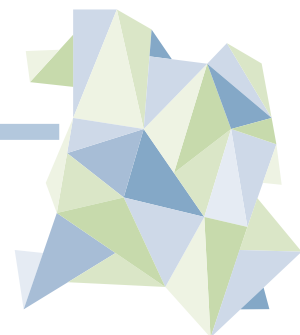
Jeff has held various committee membership positions at:

- Queensland Health
- Toowoomba Hospital
- St. Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba
- Royal Australasian College of Physicians
- Queensland State Committee of Australian College of Paediatrics
- The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller.

Jeff is a member of the committee for preparation of examinations conducted by the Australian Medical Council for overseas doctors, Examiner for the Australian Medical Council and Associate Professor (Paediatrics), University of Queensland, Rural Clinical School at Toowoomba. Jeff is also a Member of the Ethics Committee, Toowoomba and District Local Medical Association and Patron of the Down Syndrome Association, Darling Downs. Jeffrey's professional memberships include Member of Faculty of Community Child Health, Member of the Australian Perinatology Society and Member of the Australian Medical Association.

Jeff graduated from the University of Queensland with an M.B.B.S (Honours) and is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (Paediatrics).

Jeff has been awarded a number of awards including the Order of Australia Medal in 2002 for services to paediatric medicine as a practitioner, educator and advocate for clinical care and practice standards for paediatrics. He was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal in 2003 for distinguished service to the medical profession.



Dr Ian Keys

Board Member, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board

Dr Ian Keys is a retired medical practitioner with experience at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Barcaldine Hospital and Private Rural Medical Practice in Dalby.

Ian is a well known identity in Dalby and operated a private rural medical practice in the area for close to 40 years, before retiring in 2008. Ian now breeds thoroughbred horses.

Ian was Medical Superintendent with Right of Private Practice at Barcaldine in 1969 and returned to Dalby in 1970 to commence Rural General Practice. During his time in Dalby he has been associated with many community and sporting bodies including a term as an Alderman on the Dalby Town Council and was also a member of the Committee which constructed the Dalby Great Hall at Dalby High School.

After his early years in Dalby, Ian attended Anglican Church Grammar School Brisbane and graduated with an M.B.B.S in 1966 from the University of Queensland.

While at University Ian was the inaugural President of the Students Club at International House and was the first student to be on the controlling body of that College's Board of Governors.



Ms Marie Pietsch

Board Member, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board

Marie Pietsch has extensive healthcare experience throughout Queensland and has held positions on numerous councils and committees, including Chair of the Minister's Rural Health Advisory Council and Chair Southern Downs Health Community Council.

Marie has a professional background working in the Darling Downs region and her work on agricultural and health-related committees has given her strong exposure to local community issues.

Marie is a member of various health committees and panels including:

- Member of Inglewood Multipurpose Health Service Management Committee
- Chair of Inglewood Community Advisory Network.

Marie's work in representing health consumers in her region earned her a 2003 Centenary Medal for distinguished service to the community as Chair of the Southern Downs District Health Council. Marie also received an Australia Day Achievement Medallion for outstanding service to Queensland Health in 2005. In 2014, Marie was awarded the Australia Day Citizen of the Year by the Goondiwindi Regional Council for her tireless efforts volunteering for many organisations, including health, in the community.



Dr Ross Hetherington

Board Member, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board

Dr Ross Hetherington is a medical practitioner and a Designated Aviation Medical Examiner (DAME). Ross also co-founded the Central Queensland Rural Division of General Practitioners and holds a number of aviation and medical memberships.

Ross has been in private practice as a GP in Warwick since 1996 and has extensive experience in rural medicine. He is Board Chair of Health Workforce Queensland which supports the regional, rural and remote health workforce in Queensland. Ross is Board Chair of RHealth and was a Foundation Member of Regional Health Board, Longreach. He has held previous Directorships with Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) and the Australian Rural and Remote Workforce Agency Group.

Ross is a Member of the Aviation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand and a Foundation Member of the Menopause Society of Australasia.

Ross has an MBBS from the University of Queensland and has a Post Graduate Diploma in Palliative Care.



Ms Trish Leddington-Hill

Board Member, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board

Ms Patricia (Trish) Leddington-Hill worked for more than 10 years with RHealth, a primary health care organisation servicing the Darling Downs and South West Queensland.

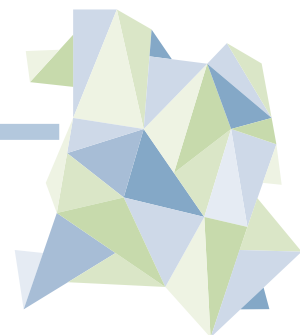
Trish grew up on a rural property near Millmerran, Queensland, and was educated in Millmerran, Toowoomba and Brisbane. She completed a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws at the University of Queensland in 2000.

Trish worked in the rural sector in a number of roles, before joining RHealth (then known as Southern Queensland Rural Division of General Practice) in 2002 where she coordinated and managed projects across the areas of allied health, mental health, aged care, quality use of medicines, health promotion and integration.

More recently, Trish's work has focused on promoting improvements to the health and community services sectors through partnerships and workforce planning and development. She has completed studies in the internationally recognised Partnership Brokering Accreditation Scheme (PBAS) and is an internationally accredited Partnership Broker.

A keen supporter of her local community, Trish's committee memberships have included:

- Secretary, Chinchilla Family Support Centre
- Member, Chinchilla Melon Festival
- Member, Chinchilla Community Unity Committee
- Member, Smoked Fish Junior Fishing Competition Committee.



Mr Terry Fleischfresser

Board Member, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board

Terry Fleischfresser has represented a number of local and state government committees since 2000 in the Kingaroy Shire Council and South Burnett Regional Council. Terry is the past Chairman for South Burnett Jobmatch.

Terry is a local business owner and operator in the Kingaroy and South Burnett Region. He has a strong background in the public sector and in community engagement in the Darling Downs region over the past 37 years.

In 2000, Terry was elected to Local Government in the Kingaroy Shire Council in the portfolio of Environment and Health. He went on to a ministerial appointment for the South Burnett Regional Health Council and was re-elected in 2004 to the Kingaroy Shire Council Environment and Health Portfolio. He currently holds the appointment of Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Representative to Health Workforce Ltd. Queensland.

Terry has long been committed to community service. For his dedication he has been awarded the:

- Melvin Jones Fellow Award (International Association of Lions Clubs)—for dedication to community, and the International Association of Lions Clubs
- James D Richardson Fellow Award (International Association of Lions Clubs)—for dedication to Lions International District Convention.
- Lions International Presidents Award—for humanitarian services performed in solidarity with the civic ideals exemplified by the International Association of Lions Clubs.

Terry is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds Diploma of Business and Painter and Decorator Apprenticeship.



Ms Megan O'Shannessy

Board Member, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board

Megan is a Registered Nurse and Midwife. Over a 25 year rural nursing career she has been the Director of Nursing at Thargomindah, Cunnamulla, Dirranbandi, St George and Warwick hospitals.

Megan was a member of the Queensland Nursing Council from 1998 to 2000. She completed a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Southern Queensland in 1996 and is at present completing her Masters in Public Health at the James Cook University.

She is now the Director of Prevocational General Practice Program at Queensland Rural Medical Education (QRME), Deputy Chief Executive Officer QRME, and Senior Lecturer Griffith University.

Our Board

Board Meetings

The full Board meets monthly, with every second meeting being held in a rural area. The Health Service Chief Executive and Director Executive Services attend as standing invitees at each Board meeting. During 2013-14 Board meetings were held in Stanthorpe, Murgon, Miles, Goondiwindi and Nanango, as well as in Toowoomba. While meeting in the rural areas the Board routinely took the opportunity to visit all of the local hospitals and community health centres, as well as meet with staff and key stakeholders including GPs within the local communities.

The members of the DDHHS Board have experience in governance, management, healthcare delivery and most importantly, strong local knowledge.

There are two Board directors representing each of the four different regions of the hospital and health service area - Southern Downs, Western Downs, South Burnett and Toowoomba and a director with nursing experience.

In 2013-14 collectively the Board travelled in excess of 33,000 km throughout the 90,000 sq km of the DDHHS to attend Board meetings and undertake site visits. A summary of Board activities for 2013-14 is provided on page 49.

Board committees

To support the Board in its functions the Board has established the following committees:

- Executive Committee
- Finance Committee
- Quality and Safety Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee.

Executive Committee: supports the Board in its role, working with the Chief Executive to progress strategic issues and ensure accountability in the delivery of health services by the service.

In 2014 the Board Executive Committee charter was updated to include the functions of a performance appraisal, development and remuneration committee in

relation to the Health Service Chief Executive position. The committee will undertake a formal assessment and make recommendations to the Board in July each year.

During the 2013-14 financial year executive committee meetings were held monthly. The membership of the committee comprised Mr Mike Horan AM (Chair), Dr Dennis Campbell and Dr Jeff Prebble. The HSCE attends all executive committee meetings.

Finance Committee: provides assurance and assistance to the Board, through oversight of the financial position, integrity and policies of the DDHHS.

During the 2013-14 financial year, finance committee meetings were held monthly. The membership of the committee comprised Dr Dennis Campbell (Chair), Dr Ross Hetherington, Ms Cheryl Dalton and Mr Terry Fleischfresser. Also attending meetings in advisory capacities were the Health Service Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer.

Safety and Quality Committee: provides assurance and assistance to the Board on safety, quality, clinical governance frameworks and strategies of the service. The committee routinely reviews a range of reports and data in relation to planning, outcomes, feedback and external review of the safety and quality of care provided by the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service.

During the 2013-14 financial year, safety and quality committee meetings were held bi-monthly. The membership of the committee comprised Dr Jeff Prebble (Chair), Dr Ian Keys, Ms Marie Pietsch, Ms Trish Leddington-Hill and Ms Megan O'Shannessey. Also attending in an advisory capacity were the Health Service Chief Executive, Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery Services, General Manager Toowoomba Hospital, and Director Clinical Governance.

Audit and Risk Committee: operates with due regard for the Treasury's *Audit Committee Guidelines*, and provides assurance and assistance to the Board on:

- the service's risk, control and compliance frameworks, and
- the service's external accountability responsibilities as prescribed in the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*, the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, the *Financial*



Accountability Regulation 2009 and the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009.

This committee has an oversight role and does not replace management's primary responsibilities for the management of risks including fraud risk, the operations of the internal audit and risk management functions, the follow up of internal and external audit findings or governance of the DDHHS generally.

During the 2013-14 financial year, audit and risk committee meetings were held quarterly. The membership of the committee comprised Dr Dennis Campbell (Chair), Dr Ross Hetherington, Ms Cheryl Dalton and Mr Terry Fleischfresser. Also attending meetings in advisory capacities were the Health Service Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Head Internal Audit and representatives of Queensland Audit Office.

The committee oversaw:

- endorsement of the annual risk-based audit plan
- completion of fieldwork in line with the audit plan, and
- the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements.

Internal Audit

DDHHS has established an Internal Audit function that operates under a Board-approved charter in accordance with the requirements of *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009*, and consistent with relevant audit and ethical standards.

The role of the Internal Audit function is to conduct independent assessment and evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of organisational systems, processes and activities, thereby providing assurance and value to the Board and Management. In the development of its charter and reporting requirements, due regard has been given to the Queensland Government Treasury Audit Committee Guidelines. Internal Audit works in accordance with strategic and annual audit plans which are approved by the Board. The plans are developed using a risk-based approach that considers both strategic and operational risks. The Internal Audit function is independent of management, and its work is carried out by both in-house resources and co-sourced providers of internal audit services. Internal audit works independently, but collaboratively with the external auditors.

The Head of Internal Audit reports functionally

to the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board, and administratively to the Chief Executive, and is required to attend all meetings of the Executive and Board Audit and Risk Committees to report on Internal Audit activities, direct the unit's activities and provide a framework for it to operate effectively.

Risk Management

The DDHHS is committed to effectively managing risks through compliance with legislation, alignment with best practice and through a practical approach that carefully plans for and prioritises risks and balances the costs and benefits of action.

The DDHHS Risk and Assurance Framework and Risk Reporting and Management Procedure uses an integrated risk management approach to describe how risks are identified, managed and monitored within the DDHHS.

Chief Finance Officer statement

Section 77(2)(b) of the Financial Accountability Act 2009 requires the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of departments to provide the accountable officer with a statement as to whether the financial internal controls are operating efficiently, effectively and economically.

The DDHHS is not specifically required to comply with this provision as a statutory authority, however, as per best practice, for the year ending 30 June 2014, a statement assessing DDHHS's financial internal controls has been provided by the CFO to the Chair of the Board and the Board Audit and Risk Committee. This included reliance on representations from the Department of Health in relation to shared systems such as general ledger, accounts payable and payroll.

Board and Board Committee meetings 2013-14

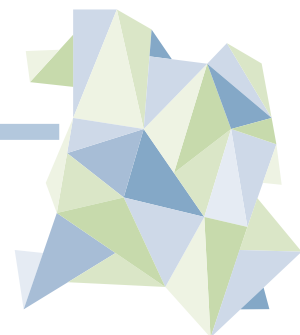
The table shows the number of meetings of the Board and Board Committees attended by Board members during 2013-14

Name	Term of Office	Board Meeting		Executive Committee		Finance Committee		Audit and Risk		Quality and Safety	
		Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended
Mr Mike Horan AM – <i>Chair</i>	18 May 2012 – 17 May 2016	11	10	11	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dr Dennis Campbell – <i>Deputy Chair</i>	29 June 2012 – 17 May 2016	11	9	11	10	10	10	4	4	-	-
Dr Jeff Prebble	29 June 2012 – 17 May 2016	11	9	11	11	-	-	-	-	6	6
Ms Cheryl Dalton	29 June 2012 – 17 May 2018	11	10	-	-	10	9	4	4	-	-
Mr Terry Fleischfresser	29 June 2012 – 17 May 2016	11	9	-	-	10	9	4	4	-	-
Dr Ross Hetherington	29 June 2012 – 17 May 2018	11	10	-	-	10	8	4	4	-	-
Ms Marie Pietsch	29 June 2012 – 17 May 2016	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3
Dr Ian Keys	29 June 2012 – 17 May 2015	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Ms Trish Leddington – Hill	9 November 2013 – 17 May 2018	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Ms Megan O'Shannessy	18 May 2013 – 17 May 2016	11	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5



General Meetings & Consultations	
	Mental Health Commissioner
Alcohol & Drug Foundation of QLD	Miles State High School
Australian Medical Council	Mothers United Maternity Stanthorpe (MUMSS)
Axion Biomedical	Murgon Dental
Barambah Health Centre	Murilla Community Centre
Blackbutt Medical Centre	My Midwives
Blue Care (Goondiwindi)	Nanango Hospital Auxiliary
Blue Care (Stanthorpe)	Nanango Physiotherapy
Blue Care (South Burnett)	Nanango State High School
Carbal Medical Centre	Nanango State School
Carinya Hostel	Object Consulting
Carramar Home for Senior Citizens Association	Origin Energy
Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Stanthorpe)	Partners In Recovery
Chemmart Chemist (Goondiwindi)	Pastoral Care (Goondiwindi)
Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director-General, Public Sector Renewal - Department of Premier and Cabinet	Qld College of Wine Tourism, TAFE (Stanthorpe)
Clubouse Toowoomba	QML Pathology (Goondiwindi)
Community Consultative Advisory Committee (Goondiwindi)	Queensland Airports Limited (Miles)
Community Consultative Committee (Stanthorpe)	Queensland Ambulance Service (Miles)
Community Development Services (Stanthorpe)	Queensland Ambulance Service (Stanthorpe)
Darling Downs South West Queensland Medicare Local	Queensland Audit Office
General Practitioners (Goondiwindi)	Queensland Gas Corporation
General Practitioners (Stanthorpe)	Queensland Police Service (Miles)
General Practitioners (Toowoomba)	Red Cross (Goondiwindi)
Goondir Health Services	Southern Cross Care Karinya (Nanango)
Goondiwindi Hospital Auxiliary	St Mary's Primary School (Goondiwindi)
Goondiwindi State High School	St Vincent de Paul Society (Goondiwindi)
Graham House Community Transport	Stanthorpe Art Gallery Society
Granite Belt Diagnostic Imaging	Stanthorpe Nursing Home
Heads of Churches Meeting (Toowoomba)	Stanthorpe State High School
Health Service Planning Consultations (Toowoomba, Warwick, Goondiwindi, Dalby, Miles, Kingaroy, Murgon)	Surat Basin Property Group
Home Instead	Toowoomba Hospital Foundation
Italian Australian Welfare Association (Stanthorpe)	Toowoomba Surat Basin Enterprises
Kaloma Home for the Aged	University of Queensland
Laing O'Rourke	University of Southern Queensland
Local Medical Association - Darling Downs	Wondai Chamber of Commerce
Meals on Wheels (Nanango)	Young Leos (Nanango)
MEDEX	

Forums and Events	Members of Parliament
15th National ASAPO Conference and Scientific Exhibition	Member for Nanango
Accelerating Vision - Concrete Steps to a Leading Region - USQ	Member for Southern Downs - Minister for Health
ACHSM College Breakfast Forum	Member for Toowoomba North
April No Falls Month displays	Local Government
BreastScreen DDHHS 21st Celebration	Goondiwindi Regional Council
Centenary Heights State School Senior Graduation Ceremony	South Burnett Regional Council
Child Protection Week Breakfast	Hospital Visits
Collaboration Towards Better Outcomes: Health Care, Research & Education - USQ	Baillie Henderson Hospital
Community Cabinet Meeting - Toowoomba	Cherbourg
DDHHS Child Youth and Family Health Conference	Goondiwindi
DDHHS Clinical Leaders Forums	Inglewood
e-REGIONS Health Launch	Jandowae
Give Me Five for Kids - Toowoomba Hospital Foundation	Miles
Griffith University - Stanthorpe Clinical Education Facility Opening	Millmerran
Griffith University, Darling Downs Clinical Training Centre Opening	Murgon
Health Renewal Portfolio Board Workshops	Nanango
Improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health - Study Tour	Stanthorpe
Launch of the Toowoomba Hospital Children's Appeal	Tara
Maintaining Momentum Forum - Clinical Redesign Unit	Texas
Midwife of the Year - DDHHS	Toowoomba
Official Opening of the new Training Facility, SWQ Training and Assessing, Toowoomba	Staff Awards
Official Opening of the Toowoomba Blue Care Community Care Centre	Australia Day Awards Ceremony
Opening of the Mental Illness Fellowship QLD Toowoomba	Length of Service Awards - Baillie Henderson Hospital
Opening of the Oakey Hospital Grand Gardens	Length of Service Awards - Chinchilla
Opening of Toowoomba 7 Springs Medical and Dental Centre	Length of Service Awards - Nanango
Partners in Recovery Official Launch - Toowoomba	Length of Service Awards - Toowoomba
QLD Ministerial Roundtable on Rural and Remote Mental Health	Length of Service Awards - Warwick
QLD Police "Leading Change" Workshop	
Quality in Trauma Care Workshop - Qld Statewide Trauma Network	
Queensland Clinical Senate	
South West Regional Disability Council	
St Vincent's Hospital Christmas Event	
Statewide Stroke Clinical Network Forum	
Toowoomba Hospital Volunteer's Luncheon	
Toowoomba Launch of the I.D.E.A.S Van, Carbal Medical Centre	
Workplace Health and Safety Workshop	



Our Executives



Dr Peter Bristow FRACP FCICM FRACMAGCM GAICD

Health Service Chief Executive

Dr Bristow was appointed as Chief Executive of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service in August 2012. Dr Bristow had been Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Darling Downs Health Service District from June 2011 and had previously worked in the role of Executive Director of Medical Services (EDMS) from November 2004, and then subsequently Director Toowoomba Hospital and EDMS.

Dr Bristow has a strong background in hospital medicine and is an Intensive Care specialist, previously working as the Intensive Care Unit Director in Toowoomba. He has been a doctor for 30 years and worked in New South Wales and Victoria before coming to Queensland, in 2000.

He has presented and published in medical literature with his main research interests being severity of illness scoring systems and in Intensive Care.



Mr Scott McConnel

Chief Finance Officer

Mr McConnel is an accountant with extensive management and finance experience and perspective from a diverse range of industries including mining, information technology, education and banking and finance, including seven years in financial services in London.

With experience across both the public and private sectors he has a track record of leading continuous improvement and in engendering a more commercial focus in not-for-profit settings.

Mr McConnel holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree with first class honours from the University of Queensland and is a member of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants Australia and Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Dr Peter Gillies

General Manager Toowoomba Hospital

Dr Gillies came to Toowoomba in 2009 to take up the role of Director Medical Services following his employment as the Director of Medical Services for Hunter New England Health in Armidale, New South Wales.

Dr Gillies is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators and has a Masters of Business Administration from Otago University. He is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

He has a background in general management, previously working as the general manager of a health software company and as the regional manager for a not-for-profit private hospital group in Auckland, New Zealand.

He has been a doctor for 19 years and worked in South Africa and the UK in both hospital and general practice roles prior to emigrating to New Zealand in 1995.



Ms Shirley Wigan

Executive Director Mental Health

Ms Wigan has extensive experience in the delivery of mental healthcare services, having worked at Mackay Hospital, West Moreton, Princess Alexander Hospital, Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital and Bayside as the Executive Director of Mental Health Services for seven years.

Ms Wigan has a social work background and graduated from the University of Queensland in 1970 with a Bachelor of Social Work. She went on to complete a Graduate Diploma in Public Health and Masters of Business Administration in 1995.

Ms Wigan was appointed Executive Director Mental Health for the Darling Downs in 2008. She has a strong background in community development, consumer and community engagement and innovative service delivery models in line with national and international imperatives and trends.

She is a member of the International Mental Health Leadership Network and is committed to a safe and quality consumer-focused service within a recovery framework.



Mr Michael Bishop

General Manager Rural

Mr Bishop is a founding member of the Mental Health Council of Australia, and a member of the National Rural Health Alliance, the Australian National Art Therapy Association, Mackay Centre for Research On Children and Community Services, The Australian College for Child and Family Protection Practitioners and Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH).

Mr Bishop graduated with a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy degree from the University of Queensland in 1983 and a Masters degree in Health Services Management from the University of New South Wales in 1996. He has undertaken postgraduate study in both profession-specific areas as well as social economics.

He has worked nationally and internationally with health services aimed at improving both the scope and quality of allied health professional services. As a result of this development and review work, he is acknowledged as an allied health professional leader by peers (the Queensland SARRAH Network Coordinator, and Australian Chair, AHLANZ).

He has a Human Rights Commendation for work in destigmatising mental illness. Michael was chair of the Editorial Boards of the Australian Journal of Rural Health, Communities, and Families and Children Australia and convened several Australian Rural and Remote Scientific Health Conferences. Michael is the Deputy Chair of the Darling Downs and South West Queensland Medicare Local.



Ms Judy March

Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery

Ms March has worked for the Queensland public hospital system for over 40 years.

Ms March was appointed as the Director of Nursing (DON) Toowoomba Hospital and the Executive Director of Nursing from 2000 to 2008. Judy was then appointed to the role of Clinical Operations Manager for the Rural Division during the time of the amalgamation of Darling Downs and West Moreton, Health Service Districts.

Prior to moving to Toowoomba Judy was employed at the Gold Coast Health Service for 19 years, in positions from Midwifery Student, Registered Nurse, Nurse Manager and Nursing Director (ND) for Surgical Services.

In her current role she is the professional head of nursing and midwifery for the DDHHS – and works closely with the DONs and NDs across the service.

Ms March has a Nursing Degree and Masters in Health Administration.

Ms March has been awarded two Queensland Health Australia Day Awards, the first in 1997 for Services to the Surgical Services at the Gold Coast Hospital and in 2010 for Nursing Leadership. She was also the recipient of the inaugural Outstanding Leadership in Nursing Award from the Association of Queensland Nurse Leaders in 2008.



Ms Annette Scott

A/Executive Director Allied Health

Ms Scott commenced her career in health as a physiotherapist, graduating from the University of Queensland in 1983. After spending her earlier career as a private practitioner in solo practice in Central Queensland, she joined the public health system in Queensland in 1993. She has subsequently fulfilled a number of clinical, quality improvement and management roles, and has worked across a range of service settings including acute inpatient, outpatient, community and rural outreach.

Prior to taking on the role of A/Executive Director Allied Health, Ms Scott fulfilled the role of Allied Health Workforce Development officer in the Darling Downs. In this role she was responsible for implementing a range of innovative redesign initiatives across the Health Practitioner workforce. These initiatives have attracted national and state-wide attention for their ability to impact positively on patient flow and health service delivery. To support the validity and effectiveness of the redesign agenda Ms Scott has undertaken training in the Calderdale Framework, a transformational workforce redesign program developed in the United Kingdom. She is now one of only three Calderdale Practitioners in Australia who is endorsed to train in the framework.

In her role as A/Executive Director Allied Health, Ms Scott is the professional lead for Allied Health for the Darling Downs HHS as well as the Operational Lead for a range of Commonwealth and State-funded programs.



Mr Stewart Gordon

Executive Director People and Corporate until 24 March 2014

Mr Gordon has worked for the public health system in Queensland for approximately 20 years. He has a Business Degree (Human Resources and Marketing) and a background in rural health service delivery. He has worked in a number of locations, including in Roma as District Manager of the South West Health Service District and also spent time working in the Department of Health head office.

Having grown up in rural south west Queensland, Mr Gordon is passionate about rural health and advocates access to an appropriate range of services for people in rural areas.

Mr Gordon took up the post of Executive Director Rural Services for the former Toowoomba and Darling Downs Health Service District in October 2007 before moving into the role of Executive Director Rural Health & Aged Care during the time of the amalgamation of Darling Downs and West Moreton, Health Service Districts.

After a period of long service leave he returned to the Darling Downs Health Service District in February 2012 to take up the newly created position of Executive Director People & Corporate Services.