

Health
The Honourable Geoff Wilson
17/06/2011

Darling Downs and South Burnett residents to benefit from local Queensland Health management

The provision of Health services and facilities in the Darling Downs will be locally managed from 1 July 2011, Minister for Health Geoff Wilson announced today.

The Bligh Government today announced a massive shake-up of health service management, introducing laws to break-up Queensland Health and reform health service management and create Local Health and Hospitals Networks from next year.

The Government also today announced that Darling Downs will have its own Health Service District managed from Toowoomba from the end of this month.

"This is the biggest shake-up of health services in the Toowoomba and South Burnett regions for a generation. Queensland Health is being broken up, and decisions about health services being made by locals, for locals in the local area," Mr Wilson said.

"This will allow the new District Chief Executive Officer to concentrate specifically on the development and provision of future health services in this important region."

The Darling Downs is currently part of Darling Downs and West Morton District which covered both the Darling Downs and Ipswich.

Mr Wilson said the development of local health services in both areas was a priority for the Queensland Government.

"For our staff at the coal face it will be business as usual."

Local hospital management arrangements will remain unchanged with directors of nursing and senior doctors responsible for the day to day management of each hospital.

Toowoomba North MP Kerry Shine welcomed these arrangements.

"The Bligh Government has made major investments and commitments for the provision of health infrastructure and services in Toowoomba," he said.

"Local management of the local health system is the next step in ensuring Toowoomba residents get world class health facilities closer to home."