2023 Resident Medical Officer (RMO) and Registrar Campaign
Darling Downs Health

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*We respectfully acknowledge all Traditional Custodians of these lands and recognise their cultural heritage, their continuing connection to land, and their role in the life of the region. We are inspired by this tradition in our work to share and preserve Australian’s cultural memory for future generations. We sincerely acknowledge and pay our respects to all Elders past, present and future.*
Location information

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Welcome to Darling Downs Health

“Caring for our communities – Healthier Together”

Darling Downs Health has a reputation of excellence and patient-centred healthcare and is the major provider of public hospital and health services in Toowoomba, Western Downs, South Burnett, Goondiwindi and Southern Downs regions. We are a busy and constantly growing health service with a focus on ensuring all patients and consumers are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decisions about their healthcare.

Our retention rate for medical staff is excellent. Known locally as “the Toowoomba trap” it is not uncommon for an intern to come to Darling Downs Health ‘just for a year’, then stay for the next three or four years of training. With a focus on quality education and hands on experience our residents do much more than paperwork. Our registrars appreciate not having to compete for clinical opportunities as sometimes occurs in other hospitals saturated with more advanced trainees. The roles are often busy but well supported, and many doctors relish this challenge. Add to this a truly unique and inclusive health community and you can see why our doctors want to stay.

If you value practical learning over administration and didactic education, come and join us at Darling Downs Health. Get a solid grounding in clinical skills and decision making, while enjoying the unique opportunities this region has to offer!

Are you ready to explore your career opportunities with Darling Downs Health?
Darling Downs Health provides public hospital and healthcare services to nearly 300,000 people from 29 facilities, which includes one large regional referral hospital, one extended inpatient mental health service, three medium sized regional hub hospitals, twelve rural hospitals, three multipurpose health services, three community outpatient clinics and six residential aged care facilities. Darling Downs Health also has a learning, research and innovation role. Darling Downs Health partners with a number of tertiary education institutions to provide undergraduate and postgraduate clinical placements.

The Darling Downs Health region is a large and diverse geographic area covering some 90 000 square kilometres. We are one of the largest employers in the region, employing more than 5 000 people, and managing a budget of more than $750 million annually.

Toowoomba Hospital is the largest reporting hospital in Darling Downs Health. It is a 320-bed hospital that provides a wide array of services: primarily ambulatory care including specialist medical and surgical outpatient services, and acute inpatient care. The hospital also has a large, 59-bed acute mental health unit.

Last year the emergency department saw 58 540 presentations of which 45% were admitted. There were 1,951 babies born. A total of 10 222 operations were performed.

The hospital serves a large catchment area throughout southern inland Queensland including to the South Burnett and south west of the state. About 41% of all patients come from outside Toowoomba city.

The University of Queensland's Rural Clinical School is also based at the hospital, with 35 third year students and 36 fourth year students on campus for their current academic year.
Our hospital services include:

• Ambulatory care including an emergency department
• Specialist outpatient services
• Day-case procedures unit
• Dialysis
• Outpatient mental health
• Oncology services
• Acute inpatient care including medical, surgical, orthopaedics, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, special care nursery, intensive and coronary care, theatre services, geriatric adult rehabilitation and stroke service (GARSS), mental health, aged care, and palliative care
• Onsite drug and alcohol, oral health, and community health services.

Specialist services include:

• Acute medical services including general medicine, emergency medicine, ophthalmology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, obstetrics and gynaecology, oncology, geriatric adult rehabilitation and stroke service (GARSS), paediatrics, respiratory medicine, renal medicine, cardiology, haemodialysis, home dialysis, and peritoneal dialysis
• Surgical services including day of admission and day surgery services, endoscopy service, ENT, urology, obstetrics & gynaecology, major orthopaedic pre-admission services, orthopaedics, and perioperative services and anaesthetic services including an acute pain service
• Specialty nursing services including stomal therapy and wound management.

Medical support services include:

• Clinical measurements: ECG, EEG, stress testing, health information service, and infection control.
• Medical imaging: 24-hour emergency imaging, CT, general X-ray, angiography, ultrasound, MRI and echocardiography.
• Pathology: biochemistry, cytology, haematology, histology, and microbiology.
• Pharmacy and Red Cross blood bank (now located off site at the Bernoth Centre, Ruthven Street).
**Clinical service profile**

Darling Downs Health is an independent statutory body, established under state legislation through the provisions of the Hospitals and Health Boards Act 2011, and is governed by the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board.

Darling Downs Health provides a comprehensive range of high-quality acute, sub-acute, mental health, drug and alcohol, oral health, residential aged care, and community health services. We deliver clinical services to approximately 300,000 people across 26 locations, including the major hospital in Toowoomba, regional and rural community hospitals, residential aged care facilities, multipurpose health services, and community clinic facilities.

Darling Downs Health has a major teaching role, providing both undergraduate and postgraduate clinical experience for members of the multidisciplinary healthcare team. We are the largest employer in the Darling Downs, employing more than 5,000 people, with revenue of more than $640 million annually.

**Community Health services provided include:**

- Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT)
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Services (AODS)
- Breast Screen
- Community aged care
- Cervical cancer prevention
- Child youth and family health (including developmental assessment clinic)
- Communicable diseases
- Community health
- Home medical aids scheme
- Indigenous health
- Maternity home care
- Oral health
- Preventative health programs
- Sexual assault program
- School-based health nurses.

Other services available from the hospital include health promotion, outreach support, pastoral care, and the Sub-acute Non-acute Patient (SNAP) project.
and training opportunities

Toowoomba would be a great place for you to join in 2023. We understand that if you want great doctors, you need to provide great support. We are extremely proud of our dedication to training and support for junior doctors and we invite you to join the team at Toowoomba Hospital.

Every day our specialists perform rounds, and provide teaching and care with their resident medical officers and registrars. Almost all our interns stay with us through their PGY2 year and many choose to stay on as PHOs or registrars. Our consultants and medical education unit assist our junior doctors in refining and realising their career.

Toowoomba Hospital is achieving outstanding standards in clinical care. We are delivering more services locally, staff specialist vacancies are rare, and the total number of specialists has increased.

Rural hospitals within Darling Downs Health offer a rich learning environment with potential for hands-on experience in birthing, emergency care, surgical assisting, and anaesthesia supported by the UQ Rural Clinical School.

Grand Rounds

Grand Rounds are an hour-long presentation delivered monthly at Toowoomba Hospital. Local and invited visiting clinicians share interesting cases, provide informed observations, and provoke lively discussion. A variety of clinical disciplines are represented in the presentations throughout the year, and all hospital staff are invited to attend. With free lunch also included, Grand Rounds has proven to be an excellent and engaging educational opportunity.
The medical education unit at Toowoomba Hospital looks after junior doctor training and has established an excellent reputation throughout the state, seen to be on the forefront of clinical education. Clinical teachers foster ongoing learning and maintain a high standard of professional practice.

The hospital supports postgraduate medical education by providing a wide range of postgraduate educational activities. There is a strong commitment among the medical administration, medical education unit, and senior medical staff to provide appropriate clinical experience and educational support.

The medical education unit provides:

- Constant support with timely assistance for any junior doctor concerns.
- An education program matched to the Australian Curriculum Framework (ACF) for Junior Doctors (ACFJD).
- Feedback and assessment: The Director of Clinical Training (DCT), Deputy Director of Clinical Training (DDCT) and the medical education officers at Toowoomba hospital are actively involved in guiding and supporting your training. Your progress is regularly evaluated through mid-term and end-of-term interviews for each of your rotations. This ensures that your learning needs and expectations are met and that your work environment and supervision create a positive experience.
- Advocacy and advice: both the DCT, DDCT and the medical education registrar act as advocates for junior doctors and offer individual career advice to ensure that you are aware of, and can take advantage of, the many opportunities available to you in planning your future.

Support for junior doctors is enhanced through:

- education sessions
- protected time for twice-weekly education sessions for RMOs
- departmental education and journal club
- monthly forum sessions and case presentations
- unit orientation at the commencement of each rotation
- unit-specific presentations including case studies, scenarios, and clinical reasoning exercises plus departmental meetings to review teamwork and training strategies
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) training program.
On-the-job training

- Enhances opportunities to interact with senior medical staff who are supportive and provide advice and regular feedback.
- Provides exposure to a wide range of conditions and treatments – as a regional referral hospital, Toowoomba accepts interesting and challenging cases from all over southern Queensland.
- Ensures constructive feedback from consultants and registrars, providing real opportunities to improve clinical skills and reasoning.

Other support within the hospital

Our innovative ‘Resident Guide App’ was the first of its kind in the state and has now been adopted by multiple other Queensland Health facilities. It includes easy access to hospital guidelines and protocols, clinical resources and term orientation information all of which can be accessed easily on the job through a mobile device.

Additional specific online resources include: online education and support through interactive training modules, procedural skills videos, recordings of lunchtime presentations, and ward call guidelines & learning scenarios.

Employee assistance services (EAS)

Informal support is given by registrars and consultants committed to providing quality supervision.
Toowoomba is a great place for you to continue your medical career. The support and dedication to training is something we are proud of, and you too can be a part of this should you choose to work at Toowoomba Hospital. Our consultants and medical education unit support our junior doctors.

Our rural terms offer a rich learning experience in hospitals with onsite senior medical officers. There is the opportunity for hands-on experience in birthing, emergency care, surgical assisting and anaesthesia.

I look forward to welcoming you to Toowoomba in 2023 and supporting you in your future medical career.

Dr Hwee Sin Chong
Executive Director Medical Services

Medical Workforce

Our Medical Workforce team is available to provide support and advice for employment. We coordinate and monitor the processes for medical staffing including registration and VISAs. We aim to provide you with personalised and prompt assistance.

Our people, our stories

Completing medical school in a metropolitan area made me realise I wanted the challenge and reward of rural medicine. I had heard of Toowoomba's great reputation for internship, so headed up the range for internship in 2016 and stayed.

A strong emphasis on education has made Toowoomba an exceptionally rewarding place to work. The exposure to general and rural medicine helped me hone my clinical reasoning skills, understand the role of community and public health in medicine, and ultimately helped me decide upon my future career path.

Living in Toowoomba has also been a welcome change, with plenty of bush walks and parks to explore, cafes and food spots to try and plenty of community groups such as orchestras and sports teams to be a part of.

The team at Toowoomba is a welcoming, enthusiastic and supportive group who go above and beyond.

Dr Nicola Campbell
Intern 2016, JHO 2017, Registrar 2018 to 2021
AVAILABLE POSITIONS

These details are subject to change, and applicants should always discuss employment opportunities with their preferred hospitals before submitting an application.

Junior and senior house officer rotations

Terms available for RMOs may include:

- Emergency Medicine
- General Surgery
- Orthopaedics
- Urology
- ENT
- ICU
- Anaesthetics
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Medical Administration
- Psychiatry
- Internal Relief (Medicine and Surgery)
- General Medicine
- Geriatric and Rehabilitation
- Medical Assessment Planning Unit (MAPU)
- Cardiology
- Respiratory
- Neurology
- Oncology
- Palliative Care
- Gastroenterology
- Haematology
- Renal
- Rural Rotations

Fellows:

Provisional Fellows

- Anaesthetics

Registrars / principal house officers:

The following positions are available for Registrars/PHOs:

- Anaesthetics
- Anaesthetics (AT)
- Emergency Medicine
- General Medicine
- Chief Medical Officer
  - Palliative Care
  - Cardiology
  - Respiratory
  - Neurology
  - General Medicine (AT)
- Endocrinology (AT)
- Nephrology (AT)
- Medical Oncology
- Clinical Haematology
- Geriatric and Rehabilitation (AT)
- Gastroenterology
- Infectious Diseases
- ICU
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Psychiatry
- Paediatrics
- General Surgery
- Urology
- ENT
- Orthopaedics
- Medical Administration
- Medical Education
- Radiology
Perhaps another reason why our doctors stay is the exceptional beauty and variety of activities available in our part of the world.

Just 90 minutes from Brisbane, Toowoomba crowns the edge of the Great Dividing Range 700 metres above sea level, overlooking the Lockyer Valley. The seasons here are unlike anything you will see elsewhere in Queensland.

With clear summer days, beautiful autumn leaves, crisp winters and our spectacular spring flowers it really is a beautiful part of our country!

Known as Queensland’s garden city, Toowoomba has more than 150 public parks and gardens to enjoy year-round. The region truly comes alive in spring for the ‘Carnival of Flowers’. This two-week festival in September includes delicious food and wine, live Australian music and of course beautiful floral displays.

We have a wonderful café and pub culture, and alleyway artwork to rival Melbourne.

With the granite belt and Stanthorpe only two hours’ drive away, we have easy access to some of the best wine in the country. Throughout our region there are countless bushwalks, waterfalls and mountains for adventure and camping. There is certainly lots to do to fill your spare time! We also have a local airport with direct flights between Sydney, Melbourne, Townsville and western Queensland, plus connections to over 180 destinations globally.