

Health

IN THE WESTERN DOWNS



We care about the health and well-being of our community which is why our health services are constantly evolving to keep pace with technology, research and the needs of our growing population.

Investment Means Opportunity

Around \$40 million is being invested in health services throughout the Western Downs in 2023/24. This means better quality of life for residents and more job opportunities. Some of these investments include:

- Illoura Village, Southern Cross Care Chinchilla - \$35 million redevelopment and an additional 81 beds
- Rural Medical Education - \$700,000 on medical student training in Chinchilla
- Ningana Retirement Village Dalby - \$30,000 on alterations to include an additional eight beds
- Health Care Centre and Pharmacy, Bell
- Tara Hospital is upgrading and modernising facilities to better suit residents, with a \$22.5 million investment
- An investment of \$5million to make refurbishments to the Jandowae Hospital

Source: Western Downs Development Status Report 2024- TSBE



Experience Western Downs

It's the people that make it.



Working in the Health Sector

Around five per cent of Western Downs workers are currently employed in the health sector which continues to offer numerous positions throughout the region. As our population increases, so does the need for doctors and clinicians such as psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and specialist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers.

There are many advantages for health professionals to work in rural Queensland, such as the Western Downs, including a more relaxed lifestyle, natural environment, different cultures and supportive community.

The professional benefits include:

- Greater autonomy and responsibility
- The variety of working in a multidisciplinary team
- A diverse patient mix
- Access to professional development and support networks that will enhance skills and develop leadership
- A range of financial benefits such as rural and remote allowances, subsidies, scholarships and bursaries
- Shorter commute times

Source: www.economy.id.com.au/western-downs
www.healthworkforce.com.au/working-in-queensland

Accident and Emergency

It's good to know that help is never far away with Queensland Ambulance Service stations at Dalby, Chinchilla, Jandowae, Miles, Tara, Wandoan and Meandarra. Darling Downs Health operates accident and emergency services at Dalby, Chinchilla, Jandowae, Miles, Tara and Wandoan.

Western Downs Maternity Service provides antenatal and postnatal care to mothers, their babies and their families in Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles, Tara and surrounding areas. Maternity care is provided through its Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) which enables mums to be supported by the same midwife throughout their pregnancy and birth at Dalby Hospital. Midwives work closely with other health professionals, including doctors, to provide additional support.

Dalby Hospital features a modern maternity unit with access to a birthing pool for water immersion during labour and water birth. Each private room has an ensuite. Families who travel to Dalby to give birth can also access a free, fully furnished apartment either before or after their baby arrives (depending on availability).

Aged Care

Care for our senior citizens continues to be a growth industry offering an ever-expanding variety of services. Growth industries mean employment opportunities and there will always be a need for trained workers in the aged care sector within the Western Downs.

Retirement Villages with Independent Living

- Dalby – St Marks Court, Ningana Retirement Village
- Jandowae – Taralga Retirement Village
- Chinchilla – Windmill Gardens Retirement Village, Village Green

Residential Aged Care

- Dalby – Karingal Aged Care
- Southern Cross Care – Illoura at Chinchilla, Carinya at Miles, Tarcoola at Tara

In-home support

Blue Care, Anglicare, Meals on Wheels and Darling Downs Health. Visit www.mable.com.au to see a directory of independent support workers, carers and household helpers in the region.

Our Hospitals

Darling Downs Health (Qld Government) oversees all health services in the Western Downs Region. Our hospitals are located at: Dalby (43 beds), Chinchilla (16 beds), Tara (12 beds), Miles (13 beds), Jandowae (12 beds) and Wandoan (outpatients only)

A comprehensive range of specialist inpatient and outpatient services are located at our hospitals:

- Accident & Emergency
- Allied health – including visiting specialists
- Cardiac medicine
- Medical imaging
- Pathology
- Medicine & a range of medical subspecialties
- Mental health and addiction medicine
- Obstetrics and gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Palliative Care
- Rehabilitation
- Surgery & a range of surgical subspecialties

Changing Lives Across the Western Downs

Better Movement Clinic's individually tailored approach focuses on prevention, education and holistic approach to health care empowering clients achieve their health goals and outcomes. The award-winning team of allied health professionals includes physiotherapists, exercise physiologists, podiatrist, dieticians and remedial massage therapists.

Founding director of Better Movement Clinic and Senior Exercise Physiologist John Dennehy, set out on a mission to support the need and gaps for allied health professional in rural and remote areas. Working closely alongside local GPs to provide treatment for chronic diseases management, rehabilitation, sports training and general health and well-being. As community demands continued to grow, John saw the need for a more holistic approach bringing other allied health professionals to the team. Now they offer services in-clinic, via Telehealth and even visiting rural communities through their mobile health clinic. Better Movement Clinic offers health services in Toowoomba, Dalby, Jandowae, Tara, Miles and Chinchilla.

Allied Health Services

The Western Downs offers a variety of essential allied health services to residents of all ages. Some are offered by private practitioners and others are offered in outpatients of local hospitals.



Community Health
BreastScreen Qld
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Health



Dentistry
Chinchilla
Dalby
Miles



Optometry
Dalby



Pathology
Dalby
Chinchilla
Tara



Physiotherapy
Dalby
Chinchilla
Miles | Tara
Jandowae



Podiatry
Chinchilla
Dalby
Tara
Wandoan

The GP to Population Ratio

GPs throughout Australia tend to be concentrated in the most populated areas and it's the same for Western Downs communities. Queensland has the highest density of GPs per capita in Australia with 125.4 GPs per 100,000 people and this ratio is similar in the Western Downs which has one GP per 820 people. Whilst these figures are relatively good, we know they are not truly adequate for a growing population which means there are many opportunities for more doctors in our region.

Source: Health Workforce Queensland and www.statistica.com

Training

Dalby and Chinchilla Hospitals also participate in GP training programs through General Practitioner Training Queensland.

Chinchilla now boasts a new Clinical Training Centre, helping to teach the next generation of regional health care professionals. With the help of Rural Medical Education Australia, the centre will have capacity for 30 students with simulations to better prepare students and graduates.



Our Primary Health Network (PHN)

The Darling Downs and West Moreton Public Health Network (PHN) is one of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health to improve primary health care (health care delivered outside of a hospital setting).

PHN objectives include increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services and improving the coordination of care so that patients receive the right care, in the right place at the right time.

Our PHN achieves this by working with local health care stakeholders and community to fund programs, support primary health care professionals, like GPs, general practice staff and allied health professionals, to improve the care they provide to their patients, and support the development of a local sustainable health care workforce.

Community Health

Residents of the Western Downs rely on the online Community Directory for up-to-date information about public and private health providers as well as community services.

www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/Queensland/Western_Downs

REGIONAL PROFILE

Rich in natural resources, natural beauty and natural history, the Western Downs is the place to be. These natural strengths are supported by strong industry foundations across the agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and construction sectors. Together with significant and continuing investment in infrastructure and tourism, these have positioned the Western Downs as one of the highest performing local government areas in Queensland, and Australia.

Known as the Energy Capital of Queensland, the Western Downs is experiencing high economic growth, investment, consistently high employment and includes some 38,000km² of land. The region boasts an impressive \$4 billion worth of approved renewables, including \$2.4 billion under construction.

One of the greatest benefits of the location of the Western Downs is the connectivity and proximity to the supply chain and relevant markets.

Another is a connected labour pool resulting in good workforce relations and retention rates and a diversity of industries with high workforce attraction.

Western Downs Regional Council's Gross Regional Product was \$3.68 billion in the year ending June 2022, growing 12.4% since the previous year (economy.id)

Home to a growing population of more than 34,500 residents, the Western Downs offers contemporary technology and opportunities in a friendly regional location.

Modern facilities such as aquatic and fitness centres, art galleries, museums, cinemas and civic centres bring a metropolitan feeling to regional communities.

The region also offers residents accessibility to public and privately run medical and health care services including access to hospitals, medical centres, dental and other health care professionals.

The roll-out of the National Broadband Network (NBN) and increasing mobile and internet coverage has positively impacted the global connectivity of businesses, lifting productivity and profitability. Dalby is classified as 'Business Fibre Zone' providing business grade fibre at reduced wholesale prices.

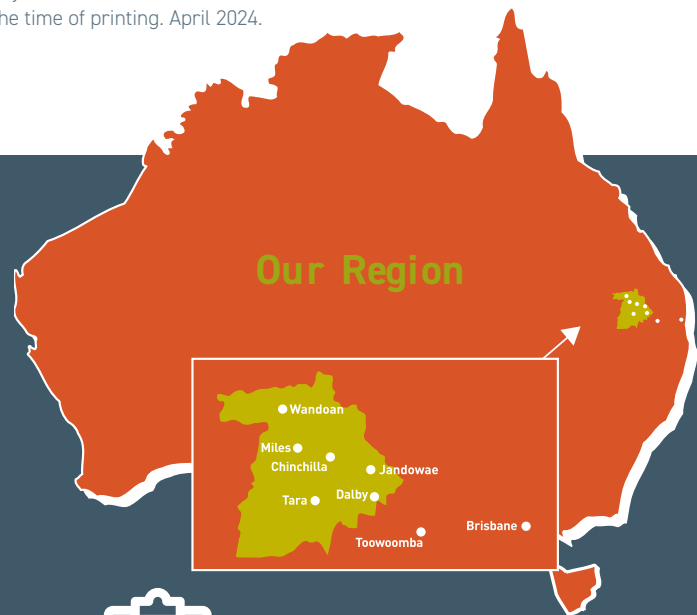
Residents enjoy a lower cost of living due to affordable housing (less than half of QLD average), ease of access to schools, work and retail outlets, with the NBN providing the network connectivity required for families and businesses to flourish.

It also offers a growing, diverse regional economy across agriculture, intensive agriculture, manufacturing, resources and renewable energy.

INNOVATION

Digital technologies create opportunity for growth and transformation. Technology is a continually evolving field and the Western Downs offers local businesses contemporary communication solutions via NBN access to stay connected and current.

The information and statistics included in this document are reliant on the accuracy of sources as listed and were accurate as at the time of printing. April 2024.



A SNAPSHOT



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDING LOWER THAN QLD AVERAGE



A SKILLED AND EXPERIENCED WORKFORCE



GRP: DOUBLED OVER 15 YEARS

Energy Capital of Queensland: Resources & Renewables



DEVELOPMENT & DEVELOPERS SUPPORTED AND WELCOMED WITH WDRC PLANNING SCHEME



COMPARATIVELY STRONG INDUSTRY SUPPLY CHAINS PER CAPITA OF POPULATION

NBN

INNOVATION: NBN ROLLOUT = DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY & SPEED FOR YOUR BUSINESS

\$\$\$

AVERAGE DISPOSABLE INCOME \$3K HIGHER THAN QLD AVERAGE

Western Downs Regional Council

Postal Address
PO Box 551
Dalby, QLD 4405
E info@wdrc.qld.gov.au

P 1300 COUNCIL
Interstate +617 4679 4000
F +61 7 4679 4099
W www.wdrc.qld.gov.au