



Sean Dillon MP

Member for Gregory

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MEDIA RELEASE

New technology doubles cardiac monitoring capacity at Barcaldine Hospital

- **New wireless telemetry equipment at Barcaldine Hospital and Multipurpose Health Service doubles capacity to monitor a patient's cardiac rhythm.**
- **The equipment reduces the need for patients to be transferred to larger hospitals for continuous cardiac monitoring.**
- **After Labor failed to invest in regional health services during their decade of decline, the Crisafulli Government is delivering practical solutions so regional Queenslanders can access high-quality care closer to home.**

The Crisafulli Government is delivering easier access to health services for Central West Queenslanders, with new wireless cardiac monitoring equipment now installed at Barcaldine Hospital and Multipurpose Health Service.

The nearly \$60,000 telemetry system doubles the hospital's capacity to continuously monitor patients' cardiac rhythms and vital signs, allowing clinicians to more easily track conditions such as heart arrhythmias, chest pain and electrolyte imbalances.

Member for Gregory Sean Dillon said the wireless equipment transmits vital information including electrocardiogram (ECG) data, pulse rate and other key indicators to a central monitoring station, enabling staff to continuously observe patients even while they move around the facility.

The system can record telemetry data for up to six days, giving clinicians a detailed record for review and helping inform treatment decisions.

Emerald Electorate Office

📍 Shop 1, 93 Clermont Street, Emerald QLD 4720
📞 (07) 4913 1000
✉️ Gregory@parliament.qld.gov.au

Longreach Electorate Office

📍 Shop 2, Studio Exclusive Arcade, 120A Eagle street, Longreach QLD 4730
📞 (07) 4521 5700
✉️ Gregory@parliament.qld.gov.au



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Since the equipment was installed in early December, at least two dozen patients have already benefitted from the new capability.

Importantly, the technology also means some patients who previously required transfer to larger hospitals for continuous monitoring can now receive care closer to home in Barcaldine.

The investment is part of the Crisafulli Government's broader work to strengthen healthcare services across the Central West, ensuring rural and remote Queenslanders can access the care they need in their own communities.

Over the past year, the region has seen a steady expansion of services, including the opening of the Central West's first nurse-assisted renal dialysis unit, expanded pharmacy, pathology and allied health services at Longreach Hospital, and the launch of a new Central West Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Service facility known as *The Hub*.

The region has also been among the first in Queensland to benefit from innovative technology such as robotic tele-echocardiography, allowing heart ultrasounds to be performed locally in Longreach without patients needing to travel long distances.

Mr Dillon said the Crisafulli Government is strengthening rural healthcare through improved technology, targeted workforce investment, expanded outreach services and improved staff accommodation to attract and retain clinicians in regional communities.

"After a decade of decline under Labor, where they failed to invest in health services in the regions, the Crisafulli Government is delivering practical measures to ensure regional Queenslanders can access high-quality care closer to home," he said.

"Regional Queenslanders deserve quality healthcare just like anyone living in the south-east.

"That's why we boosted this year's health budget for Central West by almost 10% compared to the year before and we continue to grow our health workforce.

"This new wireless cardiac monitoring equipment allows patients to be continuously monitored by their local treating clinicians, helping reduce the need for transfers to larger facilities away from home.

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“This investment builds on the Crisafulli Government’s expansion of healthcare services across the Central West, including more dialysis services, growing mental health support and bringing new technology like tele-echocardiography into the region.”

Barcaldine Hospital Director of Medical Services Dr Welwyn Aw-Yong said the new telemetry equipment had already delivered clear benefits for patients and staff.

“The equipment allows us to monitor multiple patients simultaneously and do so without staff needing to be physically beside the patient to check the equipment,” Dr Aw-Yong said.

“It provides a continuous feed of vital signs while also recording telemetry information for review later if needed.

“Importantly, it means some patients who previously had to be transferred to Rockhampton simply for a period of cardiac monitoring can now safely remain in Barcaldine for their care.”

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MEDIA CONTACT: Kerry-Lee Ferguson
gregory@parliament.qld.gov.au
(07) 4913 1000

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