Community Profiles – Gatton

Health needs and service issues summary

Gatton is diverse with high rates of people born overseas and people who speak English not well or not at all.

Relatively young population with 34% of the resident population aged under 24. Gatton also has a high itinerant population due to agricultural employment.

Gatton Health Service has a self-sufficiency of 15%, meaning the hospital serviced 15% of the catchment’s public hospital demand.

Highest rates of patient outflows outside of West Moreton for Gatton are to Darling Downs and Metro South Hospital and Health Services.

West Moreton Health’s 15-year master plan identifies short to medium term infrastructure priorities including minor refurbishments to Gatton Health Service including an upgrade of the emergency department facilities.

About Gatton

Gatton planning region consists of two SA2 areas: - Gatton - Lockyer Valley - West

Gatton planning region covers a land area of 1,530.2 square kilometers and as at June 2018 contains a total resident population of 19,896 persons or 6.9% of West Moreton’s total resident population.

Figure 23 shows a breakdown of population by age group, showing significant numbers of young people in both the 0-14 and 15-24 age categories.
Demographics

3.0%
of the Gatton planning region population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, compared to a statewide average of 4%.

15%
of people in Gatton planning region were born overseas, compared to a statewide average of 21.6%.

2.9%
speak a language other than English at home, compared to a statewide average of 1.8%.

1.3%
annual growth rate (AGR), compared to a state AGR of 1.6%. By 2041 there will be an estimated 26,317 persons residing in Gatton planning region.

12.3
Gatton planning region's crude birth rate per 1,000 (Qld 12.4) and a death rate of 5.7 per 1,000 (Qld 6.4).
Health services

The Gatton planning region includes the Gatton Health Service, located 55 kilometres west of Ipswich. The Gatton Health Service has a physical inpatient bed capacity of 26 beds, 10 of which are funded with the ability to flex to 15 beds.

Gatton Health Service is a level 2 Clinical Services Capability Framework (CSCF) hospital. The CSCF is provided by the Department of Health to determine the complexity of services provided at a hospital.

Inpatient care at Gatton Health Service is provided for low acuity paediatrics, palliative care, post-natal maternity, slow stream rehabilitation, acute and interim care.

Inpatient Services include acute medical, post-surgical care, post-natal, rehabilitation, palliative care, interim care and respite services.

Outpatient Services for Gatton Health Service include general outpatients, allied health and telehealth services. Community services include community health and immunisation, community child health, maternity care in the home, mental health, alcohol and other drugs, oral health, well women’s clinics and visiting allied health services.

Gatton Health Service cannot support the health needs of the community in isolation and works in collaboration with a range of primary care and community-based health professionals to provide care to the Gatton community.

Health service utilisation

In 2016/17, the Gatton planning region hospital utilisation was split 63% publicly funded hospital activity and 37% private activity.

In 2017/18 Gatton Health Service had a total on 1,347 episodes of admitted care (figure 24).

A significantly higher number of hospital admissions were reported for 55-84 age groups, each with 220+ episodes of admitted care.

The most recent Potentially Preventable Hospitalisations (PPH) data 2017/18 showed a total of 314 separations (an episode of care for an admitted patient) attributed to PPH’s for the Gatton planning region. The top three conditions include, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes complications and congestive cardiac failure. PPH’s
are separated into acute, chronic and vaccine preventable categories and some total PPH calculations may appear greater as patients may belong to more than one category and PPH data is calculated by place of residence, not by facility they presented at.

**Patient flow and self-sufficiency**

Self-sufficiency is the percentage of resident public health demand serviced within the catchment. Based on the self-sufficiency index, Gatton Health Service serviced 15% of their public hospital demand.

Patient flow (outflow) represents the proportion of the population who receive services outside their geographic catchment area. Figure 25 represents where the residents of the Gatton planning region are receiving their care. Given the geographic proximity of Gatton to the Darling Downs HHS, it is not surprising that over 50% of Gatton’s resident population choose the receive their care at Darling Downs HHS.

![Figure 25, Gatton planning region patient outflow, 2016/17](image)
Health service demand

As the population is growing and ageing, so too is the demand for public hospital services. Figure 26 shows the significant growth in projected inpatient hospital demand for the Gatton region.

It is expected that by 2036/37 the number of public hospital admissions for the Gatton planning region will increase to 12,049, an increase of 126%.
Top 10 Service-Related Groups for Gatton residents

Renal dialysis accounted for the highest amount of publicly funded admissions in 2016/17 for Gatton residents. It should be noted however, that most renal dialysis patients receive three treatments per week. The service-related groups with the next highest volume were obstetrics, chemotherapy, non-specialty surgery (general surgery) and Diagnostic GI Endoscopy all of which were higher than 350 admissions during 2016/17 (figure 27).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service-Related Group</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Renal Dialysis</td>
<td>577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Obstetrics</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Non-Subspecialty Surgery</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Diagnostic GI Endoscopy</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Orthopaedics</td>
<td>341</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Cardiology</td>
<td>330</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Respiratory Medicine</td>
<td>278</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Chemotherapy</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Neurology</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Non-Subspecialty Medicine</td>
<td>198</td>
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What our community values

Engaging with the community positions West Moreton Health to better understand the needs of the people who use or will potentially use our health services. The West Moreton Health Lockyer Valley Community Reference Group meets on a quarterly basis to provide insight into the needs of the community.

The Lockyer Valley Community Reference Group identified the following concerns relating to their community:

- Limited transport options to be able to access services within and outside the Lockyer Valley region
- The need for more communication on local services and how to access them
- Culturally appropriate services to support the growing multicultural community
- Early year and parent education programs to support the needs of young people with mental health issues
- National Disability Insurance Scheme participants in the area are not accessing service providers due to limited understanding of how the new system works. This could impact on hospital and health services when people need support
- People over 65 years of age requiring access to in-home services are experiencing long wait times which could mean they will need additional support from the health service if they are not able to receive in home care
West Moreton priorities for Gatton

The West Moreton Health Strategic Plan 2017-2021 (2019 update) outlines nine strategic directions to meet the health needs of the diverse and growing community now and in the future. To meet these strategic directions West Moreton Health has identified key areas for clinical and infrastructure improvements as outlined in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Improve service configuration between Gatton and Laidley</td>
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<td>- Improve linkages with local GPs</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Focus on utilising technology to provide more services in a virtual capacity</td>
<td>- West Moreton Health’s 15-year master plan identifies short to medium term infrastructure priorities including minor refurbishments to Gatton Health Service including an upgrade emergency department facility</td>
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<td>- Longer term plans include a new Lockyer Valley facility providing medium acuity services for the region and surrounding areas</td>
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