

2 February 2024

Ms Annette Scott
Chief Executive
Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service

By email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Standard of accommodation in Darling Downs region

ama.com.au/qld

88 L'Estrange Terrace
Kelvin Grove 4059

PO Box 123
Red Hill 4059

Ph: (07) 3872 2222
Fax: (07) 3856 4727

amaq@amaq.com.au

ACN: 009 660 280
ABN: 17 009 660 280

Dear Ms Scott

AMA Queensland members continue to raise concerns about the standard of accommodation available to Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) staff. You will recall these issues were also the subject of our letter to you on 2 June 2023.

Doctors have advised that residential accommodation in the Darling Downs region is often difficult to secure and does not meet the standards outlined in the [Australian Medical Association's Position Statement on Workplace Facilities and Accommodation for Hospital Doctors \(2021\)](#).

Doctors were also concerned about the following:

- inadequate hospital facilities to support staff commutes including shower and changing room facilities and rest/sleep accommodation where staff work extended shifts;
- a lack of safe and secure access between hospital premises and transport options; and
- prohibitively expensive and/or unavailable domestic accommodation to attract and retain doctors working in the region both through permanent relocation and temporary rotation.

We appreciate the challenges faced with existing infrastructure; however, it is imperative that hospital upgrades or new builds produce the physical infrastructure necessary for staff to work effectively and keep their patients safe and that they have suitable, affordable, and secure residential accommodation. Without such facilities, our invaluable healthcare workforce suffer stress and burnout and we cannot attract the staff needed to properly run the hospital health services.

If you would like to discuss these issues or the Position Statement further, we would be more than happy to meet with you.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Dr Maria Boulton
President
AMA Queensland

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland