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Queensland clinics to get off on the right foot

Queenslanders with diabetes who have high risk foot concerns will receive treatment earlier, thanks to a \$17.5 million state-wide funding boost.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Steven Miles said the funding would increase service availability across Queensland, over the next four years, to reduce hospitalisations and amputations.

“High Risk Foot Clinics work with patients to manage foot complications, such as Diabetic Foot Disease, which is caused by a lack of feeling and lack of circulation or blood supply to the feet,” Minister Miles said.

“The disease can affect people with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, and is one of the top 20 leading causes of hospitalisation in Australia. In severe cases, it can lead to amputation or even death.

“Prevention is always the key – 85 per cent of these amputations are preventable if the disease is detected early and managed appropriately.

“This funding boost will ensure patients can do just that, by giving them better access to a multi-disciplinary team of podiatrists, physicians, surgeons, nurses and other allied health professionals.”

Minister Miles said the funding would also create two new state-wide telehealth positions which would provide specialist podiatry support to Queenslanders, no matter where they lived.

“One of these telehealth positions will be based at the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service; the other will be based in the south-east at Metro North Hospital and Health Service,” he said.

“Creating these positions reinforces our commitment to ensuring everybody in Queensland has access to the best possible health care when they need it and as close to home as possible.

“Rural and remote Queenslanders will benefit the most, as the service will reduce the need to travel to see a specialist high risk foot service in a metro area.

“We are seeing amazing results through the telehealth service, since it was first implemented, and this is an important next step.”



Media statement

Queensland health services will share in the \$17.5 million funding boost.

HHS	Funding over four years
Cairns & Hinterland	\$2,033,027
Central Queensland	\$710,424
Central West	\$326,884
Darling Downs	\$1,114,839
Gold Coast	\$1,604,273
Mackay	\$1,702,672
Mater	\$218,168
Metro North	\$1,959,786
Metro South	\$1,209,607
North West	\$326,884
South West	\$326,884
Sunshine Coast	\$1,707,578
Torres & Cape	\$326,884
Townsville	\$1,114,084
West Moreton	\$1,480,358
Wide Bay	\$1,330,435
TOTAL	\$17,492,787

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