

## TeleDentistry for residential aged care facilities in Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service

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**Issue:** All permanent residents in our Aged Care Facilities are required to have a yearly dental assessment. Previously staff from Toowoomba Hospital Dental Clinics were able to attend Age Care Facilities to perform these assessments. Due to increased work loads, this is no longer an option. Removing the residents from each facility and transporting them to the Dental Clinic is also time consuming, not cost effective and disruptive to the residents.

**Objective:** A dental therapist performs an in person initial assessment of each resident and identifies who will require further assessment by a Dentist via Telehealth.

**Outcome:** The Dental Therapist uses an Inline Flexi Scope camera with an intra oral probe attached to provide a real time live feed. From his office in Toowoomba, the Dentist can direct the Dental Therapist and provide advice on dental care locally or arrange to see the resident in person.

**Future:** The initial work has all been documented and procedures put in place so the work can be implemented in other Aged Care Facilities and with other Dental Clinic Teams. The dental assessments including TeleDentistry in the Residential Aged Care facility will ensure each resident has a yearly review and reduces the need for residents to travel unnecessarily to the Dental Clinics.