

# An Alternative Approach for the Delivery of Pathology Services in a Rural Setting

## Services in a Rural Setting

### Pathology Queensland and Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service



**Problems:** Maryborough Hospital had a busy category B laboratory offer a full range of services (including micro) in the 1990s until its closure in 2012 when all pathology testing was referred to nearby Hervey Bay Laboratory. Recently, courier service costs were increasing and referrals to private pathology were increasing.

**Solution:** A Point of Care “Laboratory” was commissioned in a 44m<sup>2</sup> refurbished space. Four devices were installed and ran a total of 10 diagnostic tests.

#### Results:

- Turn around times for tests available on site are aligned with clinical need
- Pathology Collection is available on site Monday to Friday for 8 hrs/day
- Scientific support is available from 800 to 1600 seven days a week
- After hours NUMs and ED staff have been trained to operate the POCT equipment in the laboratory after hours.
- Client feedback has been positive.



