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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keen to Catalogue at Diamantina Health Care Museum

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates **Diamantina Health Care Museum**, one of nine museums and galleries from Brisbane metropolitan and surrounding regions who have completed a challenging year-long program assessing their existing practice against *The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*.

Reviewers, Christine Ianna and Ken Brooks, who played a vital role in providing free professional advice and assistance throughout the program, congratulated the **Diamantina Health Care Museum** saying,

'**Diamantina Health Care Museum** are commended for their participation in, and contribution to, the Standards Program in order to benchmark their operation against national standards. All members of the Diamantina Health Care Museum committee are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and interest in promoting the Museum and their efforts to improve their Museum operations.'

They praised the committee saying,

'The Museum is managed by a committee of retired hospital staff who are very passionate about the Museum and its collections. They are very professional in how they present themselves in the context of the Museum and are keen to understand more on how to manage the collections and how to better present those collections and stories to the visiting public'.

The Diamantina Health Care Museum Inc. is housed in the oldest building in the grounds of the Princess Alexandra Hospital: the heritage listed former Dispenser's House which was built in 1909. The site was originally used as an Aboriginal healing place by the Koorpooroo people of the Jagara group.

It is well located with immediate street access and visibility from the road. The building is well maintained and the Princess Alexandra Hospital provides infrastructure and facilities support.

The Museum celebrates and interprets the rich history of health care, the people and staff at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. The Museum displays a variety of photographs of previous years, furniture from the Diamantina health care days and makes available information booklets about the hospital's past, its people and equipment. The Museum also presents displays in the main hospital foyer.

With assistance of the expertise of M&GSQ's Standards Program Reviewers, **Diamantina Health Care Museum** is working towards a system to catalogue the collections room by room and is investigating the purchase of collection management software. The committee has identified Volunteer Program Development & Recruitment, Visitor Research and up-skilling in Preventive Conservation strategies as other key priorities for their future development.

Claire Lees, Vice President Diamantina Health Care Museum, explained one of their gains from participating in M&GSQ's Standards program:

'We knew we needed to catalogue, but not how to start. Acting on the advice given we are now in the process of selecting the right program for our Museum.'

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director M&GSQ, commended Diamantina Health Care Museum and gratefully acknowledged the pro bono work the Standards Reviewers, Christine Ianna and Ken Brooks, undertook with the Museum and the support of Brennan and Geraghty's Store Museum, for their vital contribution to M&GSQ's Standards Program.

In 2011 the M&GSQ Standards Program will run in the Tablelands and Cook Shires of Far North Queensland.

Full program information is available at
http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=709

The Museum profile and print quality images from the Museum are attached.

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IMAGE CAPTIONS:

Image 1 – Diamantina Health Care Museum with their Certificate of recognition L to R: Deborah Miles, Director, Creative Communities, Arts Queensland and Claire Lees, Vice President, Diamantina Health Care Museum

Acknowledgement – Graeme Mackay

Image 2 - The Diamantina Health Care Museum

Acknowledgement – Claire Lees

Image 3 – Countess Diamantina Roma / Lady Bowen Display Corner

Acknowledgement – Claire Lees

END RELEASE