



Helping speak up



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GROUND-BREAKING technology introduced at Fraser Coast hospitals has changed the way deaf, hearing and speech impaired people can communicate with loved ones and set the standard for Queensland.

The new internet relay service allows those who can't use a standard telephone to call anyone

they need to from computers or laptops connected to the internet.

Hervey Bay Hospital was the first in the state to provide the option in response to a complaint made by Maryborough resident Judith Raxworthy.

Last year Ms Raxworthy, who has a hearing impairment, told the Chronicle lack of access to telecommunications at the hospital had made it extremely difficult for her to contact family members with an update on her husband's condition when he was admitted.

As a result the National Relay Service set up the system at the Hervey Bay Hospital and Maryborough has since followed suit.

Ms Raxworthy said she had been using the relay service in other areas of her life for many years and was pleased patients and their families would now have access to it.

"It is important that people in hospital are able to communicate with their family and friends by phone if they need to, especially because it's a stressful time," she said.



MUCH BETTER: Judith Raxworthy.

Photo: File