

# Queensland State Budget 2007–08

## Agency Budget Highlights

Queensland Health

Queensland **the Smart State**



**Queensland**  
Government

# Agency Budget Highlights

Queensland Health



## Message from the Minister

**The 2007-08 Budget, together with the Beattie Government's \$10 billion Health Action Plan, continues the reform process to strengthen the foundations of Queensland Health and enhance and improve health service delivery into the future.**

This year's health budget is a record \$7.151 billion. That's \$766 million more than the \$6.38 billion budget we delivered last year, and more than double the \$3.174 billion budget Queensland Health had in 1997-98.

It delivers on our election commitments to provide our hospitals with the infrastructure, staffing and resources to meet the ever-increasing demands on our health system from a growing and ageing Queensland population.

The Beattie Government's Health Action Plan is not yet two years old but it has already delivered for Queenslanders.

Between June 2005 and April this year we have already employed 999 extra doctors, 3157 additional nurses and 1126 additional allied health professionals in our public hospitals. This budget provides further funding to continue recruitment.

Our commitment to provide more beds in Queensland hospitals is not wavering. Capital works programs are already making a visible difference with new facilities underway, in the final stages of planning or recently completed. Planning for our three new major hospitals — the Gold Coast University Hospital, Sunshine Coast Hospital and Queensland Children's Hospital — progresses strongly.

Improving acute as well as community-based mental health services throughout Queensland is also a priority in this budget.

We recognise that growing demand on mental health services makes it important for us to provide the tools and resources necessary to improve the delivery of services. This budget provides additional funding of \$353.5 million over four years to support implementation of The Queensland Mental Health Strategic Plan 2007-2017 which is nearing finalisation.

We also have new initiatives in this budget to improve health service delivery to Queenslanders. One of these is Surgery Connect, a waiting list initiative designed to increase access to elective surgery for public patients waiting longer than nationally recommended benchmarks for their surgery.

As Queensland's population continues to grow, the population ages and chronic diseases become more prevalent, the demand on our health facilities will grow accordingly.

We have the strategies in place, infrastructure development is underway and we are recruiting the expertise to meet these challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Robertson'. The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Stephen Robertson MP**  
Minister for Health

The 2007-08 Health budget will position the Queensland Government to efficiently and effectively meet the growing demand on services. It will provide Queensland Health the tools to continue its reform process while actively recruiting, retaining and developing the workforce and planning for and providing hospital and community based services.

This year's health budget is a record \$7.151 billion —\$766 million more than last year's \$6.38 billion budget, and more than double the \$3.174 billion budget Queensland Health had in 1997-98.

Another \$632.7 million will be spent on capital works projects to provide new and upgraded hospital and other facilities, further improving access to health care services.

Funding for the Health Action Plan, launched in October 2005 as a blueprint for reform, recruitment and restoring our health system's reputation, is now more than \$10 billion over five years.

The recently released Queensland *Statewide Health Services Plan 2007-2012* established the strategic direction and will guide service improvement and service reform in the state.

This major commitment of additional funding for the second consecutive year will support the reform objectives highlighted in this plan.

Those key objectives are improving access to safe and sustainable health services, and providing comprehensive health services that better meet the needs of people across the health service.

## Workforce

Queensland Health exceeded the recruitment targets committed to under the *Health Action Plan*.

Between June 2005 and April this year an additional 999 doctors, 3157 nurses and 1126 allied health professionals joined our health workforce.

In 2007-08 the following funding is provided to support the recruitment and retention of our workforce:

- \$215.4 million through our commitment to improve wages and conditions for clinical, administrative and operational staff

- \$15.1 million in additional funding to enhance the clinical education and training of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals
- \$5.9 million in additional funding to create more positions for medical graduates to ensure an adequate supply of medical specialists
- \$4 million in additional funding to increase our capacity to provide high quality clinical education and training for the increasing number of medical students graduating in Queensland
- \$2.08 million in additional funding to establish five additional rural generalists medical positions to increase the number of doctors in rural areas.

### Health workforce

An additional 999 doctors, 3157 nurses and 1126 allied health professionals joined our health workforce



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## Queensland Health

### Capital infrastructure initiatives

The timely development of health infrastructure needs of Queenslanders into the future is an essential building block in future service delivery.

This budget will allow the continued planning and development of billions of dollars of projects throughout the state.

Major hospital projects continuing in 2007-08:

- The Prince Charles Hospital upgrade – \$134.4 million
- Ingham Hospital redevelopment – \$45 million
- Innisfail Hospital redevelopment – \$41.8 million
- Yeppoon's new hospital – \$22.6 million (including land)
- Dalby Hospital (outpatients, emergency department and maternity) – \$10.9 million.

The More Beds for Hospitals program will provide an additional 1046 acute care beds or bed equivalents across a range of metropolitan and regional hospitals over five years. The More Beds for Hospitals program includes:

- Gold Coast University Hospital – \$1.23 billion
- Sunshine Coast Hospital – \$940 million (including land)
- Queensland Children's Hospital – \$704 million (including land)
- Townsville Hospital expansion – \$84 million
- Sunshine Coast additional bed capacity – \$79.1 million
- Rockhampton Hospital improvement – \$74 million
- Bundaberg Hospital expansion – \$41.1 million
- QEII Hospital elective surgery expansion – \$30 million.

Emergency Department upgrades are also continuing at:

- Princess Alexandra Hospital – \$50 million
- Robina Hospital – \$40.1 million
- Redcliffe Hospital – \$27.5 million
- Redland Hospital – \$14 million
- Cairns Hospital – \$11.1 million
- Gold Coast Hospital – \$8.2 million
- Gympie Hospital – \$6.7 million.

Funding in 2007-08 for continuing major community projects includes:

- North Lakes Health Precinct – \$52.1 million
- Weipa Hospital redevelopment – \$45.3 million
- Thursday Island Chronic Disease and Prevention Management – \$39.3 million
- Browns Plains Health Precinct – \$24 million
- Yarrabah Primary Health Care Centre – \$15.8 million
- Gladstone Community, Mental and Oral Health consolidation – \$14.7 million
- Hope Vale Primary Health Care Centre – \$13.4 million
- Nundah Community Health Centre – \$15 million
- Cairns Central Community Health Care Centre – \$12.7 million
- Miles Hospital Redevelopment – \$11.7 million
- Collinsville Multi-purpose Health Service – \$10.5 million

### Capital works projects

Capital works projects to provide new and upgraded hospital and other facilities, further improving access to health care services



- Gin Gin Health Service — \$8.6 million
- Erub (Darnley) Island Primary Health Care Centre — \$6.8 million
- Warraber Island Primary Health Care Centre — \$4.8 million
- Mackay Community Based Transition and Rehabilitation Service — \$2.7 million.
- Health Precinct Planning — \$1.5 million

The \$91 million Regional Accommodation Program will continue in 2007-08. Other staff accommodation projects include:

- Roma nursing quarters — \$10.5 million
- Rockhampton staff accommodation — \$10 million
- Cape York staff accommodation — \$2.6 million.

## Mental health

The *Queensland Mental Health Strategic Plan 2007–2017* is currently being finalised. When complete, it will provide a structure for the reform of mental health services over the next 10 years.

Additional funding of \$353.5 million over four years has been committed to support implementation of the Plan. This includes \$35.6 million funding allocation to Disability Services Queensland to purchase services from the non-government sector, particularly non-clinical personal support and accommodation for mental health consumers in the community.

In 2007-08, \$45.5 million in additional funding has been allocated to the following areas:

- \$28.5 million to employ and accommodate community mental health staff. Over the next four years \$176.2 million will be committed to expand community mental health services
- \$13.2 million to develop and expand inpatient mental health services. This is part of a commitment of \$121.5 million over the next four years for the enhancement of inpatient mental health services. This investment is in addition to funding provided to build new facilities as part of the redevelopment of the Gold Coast, Nambour and Royal Children's Hospitals
- \$2.1 million to develop and support the mental health workforce as part of an investment of \$11.4 million

over four years for workforce development, service quality and safety initiatives in the government and non-government sectors

- \$1.7 million (\$9.3 million over four years) to improve mental health promotion activities and to strengthen prevention of, and early intervention in, mental illness.

## Surgery Connect

Queensland Health is introducing a new waiting list initiative in 2007-08 to increase access to elective surgery for public patients who have extended waiting times for surgery. Surgery Connect will involve outsourcing the treatment of "long wait" public elective surgery patients (for a selected range of procedures) where public sector capacity has been optimised.

## Patient transfers

\$25.4 million additional funding, as part of a \$101.8 million funding package over four years, has been allocated to meet the increasing cost on providing inter-facility transfers and aeromedical retrievals.

## Surgery initiatives

Increased access to elective surgery for public patients



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### Supporting young families

\$29.67 million will be spent on a new Universal Postnatal Contact Service to support mothers of newborns in Queensland after they are discharged from hospital.

### Trauma plan

\$7.08 million additional funding, as part of an additional \$28.3 million over four years, will enhance injury prevention and improve trauma management at a Statewide level.

### Cancer services

The commissioning of a third linear accelerator at Townsville and the continued funding of the Statewide positron emission tomography scanner service is just one of the measurable successes the Health Action Plan has already produced for Queenslanders.

Additional medical, nursing, allied health and administrative staff have been employed across the state and cancer services have been enhanced at Toowoomba, Gold Coast and Logan-Beaudesert health service districts.

Last financial year \$87.9 million was allocated for cancer services expansion and this year an additional \$5.1 million has been allocated for continued cancer service developments and high priority projects. Those projects include:

- funding for the Central Area Health Service to support joint appointment of medical staff and outreach services including allied health
- funded expansion of services at Gold Coast Health Service District, outreach services to Logan and funding for a public-private partnership to deliver radiation therapy services locally to Toowoomba and Darling Downs Health Service District inpatients
- service improvements in the Northern Area Health Service focusing on psychosocial care and allied health services.

### Blood funding

\$2.8 million has been provided for the additional costs of initiatives to improve the quality and safety of the national blood supply through the phased introduction of leucodepletion (the removal of white cells from blood and blood products) and pre-release micro-bacterial testing.

### Mater hospitals

An additional \$9.5 million— taking this year's total to \$34.4 million — to fund another operating theatre and for the recurrent costs of the Mater Hospital's redevelopment project resulting in an increase in maternity, neonatal and adult public hospital and outpatient services.

### Renal services

Funding in this budget for the provision of renal services across Queensland will include:

- \$1.2 million for renal projects at the Sunshine Coast
- \$3.6 million for the further enhancement to renal services at Cooktown
- \$0.8 million additional funding for the refurbishment of existing facilities at the Princess Alexandra and Redland hospitals
- enhancement of services through the expansion of the Ipswich haemodialysis unit from nine to 12 stations

### Enhancement of services

Additional medical, nursing, allied health and administrative staff have been employed across the state



- expansion of the Southport haemodialysis unit by nine chairs, providing capacity for an additional 36 in-centre haemodialysis patients
- an outreach chronic kidney disease service at Toowoomba Hospital.

## Chronic disease

\$22.4 million in increased funding as part of a four-year, \$155 million package, towards whole-of-population primary prevention and initiatives for the prevention and management of chronic disease.

## Forensic services reform

The purchase of additional automated analytical equipment will further improve testing efficiency in the DNA laboratory over coming months. The allocation of \$1.5 million additional funding will support the implementation of final recommendations in the reform of forensic and scientific services including the recruitment of additional staff in forensic pathology, toxicology and mortuary. These processes will continue the delivery of significant improvements in forensic services to Queensland.

## Transition care

\$16.9 million will be allocated to the joint funding agreement with the Australian Department of Health and Ageing, bringing the total State funding up to \$43.4 million. It is envisaged that 351 places allocated to Queensland will become operational during 2007-08, providing services for up to 1755 older Queenslanders each year in either their own homes or at a residential aged care facility.

## Indigenous health

Initiatives to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including:

- continued implementation of Queensland Health's response to the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health:
  - completion of a second tender process to select non-government organisations across Queensland to employ positions to address the health issues of nutrition, physical activity and healthy lifestyle;

alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; child and youth health; sexual and reproductive health; cervical screening and women's sexual health through the Healthy Women's Initiative;

- development of the Queensland Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Strategy 2007–2012; and

- contribute to the whole-of-Government Community Governance Improvement Strategy through implementation of public health legislation in Aboriginal local governments and Torres Strait Islander Councils under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health Legislation Engagement Strategy.

- Additional \$7.82 million in 2007-08 for the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alcohol Diversion Program in three pilot locations offering eligible offenders the opportunity to undertake treatment prior to sentencing
- \$450,000 over three years (2006-07 to 2008-09) for development and implementation of the North Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Awareness and Education Project to provide an overarching culturally effective communication strategy that connects and supports local initiatives to address alcohol misuse

### Improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Addressing the health issues of nutrition, physical activity and healthy lifestyle



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- \$200,000 in 2007-08 towards accreditation of a Certificate IV (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Health Work) training course for Indigenous Child Health Workers
- \$99,000 for the evaluation of the Rio Tinto Child Health Partnership Initiative's three trial sites at Inala, Woorabinda and the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service.

### Information and communication technology

A total of \$150.3 million — including \$105.6 million capital and \$44.7 million in non-capital expenditure — will be invested in information and communication technology projects in 2007-08. This includes additional funding of \$40 million to commence a multi-year investment in e-health initiatives.

Funding allocations include:

- \$36.4 million for information and communication technology equipment to replace, upgrade and provide future capacity to support e-Health capability and enterprise clinical and administrative systems
- \$29.7 million on other information and communication technology projects to enable improved secured system access, data capacity management and Statewide service capability
- \$17.6 million in clinical solutions including: the continued roll-out of the Emergency Department Information System to 10 more sites; further development of School Oral Health Information System to improve appointment scheduling and improved care

through having oral health records available on line; and the start of a new Radiology Information System which will enable faster results reporting through centralised access to images improving patient safety.

### Alcohol, tobacco and other drug initiatives

Action on alcohol, tobacco and other drug related illness, injury and death include:

- \$4.8 million additional funding to support initiatives to prevent youth substance misuse, including 'Ice'
- establish a Queensland Quitline telephone service 13QUIT (13 7848) to provide additional support and services, including call-back counselling and new self-help guides, for smokers wanting to quit.

### Investing in information and communication technology



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