

State Budget 2009–10

Queensland Health

Agency Budget Highlights

State Budget 2009–10

Agency Budget Highlights

Queensland Health



Message from the Minister

The State Government will deliver another record health budget in 2009-10, despite challenging global economic conditions, that is testament to its commitment to securing a strong health care system for Queensland today and into the future. This \$9.037 billion health budget represents an eight per cent increase on last year's health budget.

The State Government's record health spend will be specifically targeted at pressure points in our busy public hospitals. It will allow us to recruit more doctors, nurses and health professionals as well as enabling us to press forward with our record \$6 billion capital works program.

The Bligh Government's health infrastructure program, the largest in Australia's history, will deliver new and upgraded health facilities right across the state. Crucially, it will also support 40,000 construction jobs at a time when Queenslanders need them most.

In 2009-10, the Government will spend \$268.4 million progressing the Queensland Children's Hospital at South Brisbane, the Gold Coast University Hospital at Parklands and the Sunshine Coast University Hospital at Kawana.

Regional Queensland will also benefit from the health spending bonanza, with \$108.2 million earmarked to continue the Cairns, Mackay and Mt Isa Hospital redevelopments. A further \$113.4 million will be spent on important upgrades to Townsville and Rockhampton hospitals.

Our commitment to invest in community health services means this budget we will deliver \$71 million in 2009-10 for

community health services, including community health centres in Cairns and Gladstone.

Increasing Queensland Health's clinical workforce is a key focus of our ongoing Health Action Plan. Since 2005 we have recruited more than 2,100 extra doctors, more than 7,100 extra nurses and more than 2,700 additional allied health professionals to Queensland Health.

Recruitment will remain a major priority in this and future State Budgets. The government has set a target to employ over 3500 more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals over the next three years.

The 2009-10 health budget includes \$56 million in capital funding to progress projects to address health service demand management. This will help us to tackle the increasing demand for services in our public hospitals, not least in our busy emergency departments where presentations are far outstripping population growth.

We have a clear strategy to build vital health infrastructure, recruit more clinical staff and provide our hospitals with the resources they need. The 2009-10 budget will augment this strategy and deliver Queenslanders the world-class health care they expect.

Paul Lucas MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health

The \$9.037 billion health budget for 2009-10 continues the Queensland Government's commitment to make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people, with unprecedented levels of expenditure on capital infrastructure and expanded health services to meet the ever-increasing demands of Queensland's growing population.

The budget will focus spending on upgrading emergency departments, new rehabilitation and maternity services, and expanding cancer treatment facilities

The budget focus

A difficult fiscal environment and increasing costs creates a formidable challenge for the delivery of sustainable health services. However, the Queensland Government is delivering on its promise to reform and restore health services statewide.

This continued investment, combined with new funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget, will assist in addressing the major contemporary issues for the public health sector that contribute to rising costs – including an ageing population, increasing community expectations for health services and innovations in health care.

includes additional funding of \$90 million over three years promised in the 2009 State Election, to provide an additional 20,000 elective surgery operations, including 3,300 on children

- \$2 million capital funding in 2009-10, to complete construction of the \$3.4 million dedicated elective surgery centre at the Logan Hospital.

Advancing Health Action

Prevention, early action and new forms of treatment have been identified as the key measures in making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people.

The Queensland Government is shaping a strong system that steps in before people need to be admitted to hospital and provides health care closer to home.

Advancing Health Action outlines five key challenges the Queensland Government is tackling in order to reach our targets.

1. Expanding health services to meet the needs of a growing population.
2. Stemming the devastating tide of preventable disease.
3. Giving mothers and babies the best start.
4. Improving mental health care.
5. Reducing the gap for rural communities and for all indigenous people in Queensland.

Elective surgery

- \$30 million in 2009-10 (\$110 million over three years) for the successful Surgery Connect program. This

An investment in care

Surgery Connect was established in 2007 to improve access to elective surgery for public patients who have extended waiting times.



State Budget 2009–10 Agency Budget Highlights

Faster emergency care in our hospitals

A \$145.2 million program to expand more emergency departments at hospitals throughout Queensland, including:

- \$31 million in 2009-10 towards expansion of emergency departments at Logan, QEII, Redland and Bundaberg Hospitals
- Expansion and/or upgrades to emergency departments at Ipswich, Caboolture and Toowoomba Hospitals to commence from 2011-12
- A dedicated paediatric emergency department at The Prince Charles Hospital, due to open in 2012
- \$0.87 million in 2009-10 to train and recruit 10 new nurse practitioners to work in our busiest emergency departments to cut down on waiting times. In total, \$7.9 million over three years has been committed to train and recruit 30 new nurse practitioners. This builds on commitments in previous budgets for nurse practitioners.

Rehabilitation and transition care

As part of the Faster Emergency Care in our Hospitals initiative, the Queensland Government made a commitment to expanding rehabilitation and transition care facilities so more public patients are receiving the care they need in the most appropriate setting.

In 2009-10, \$13 million operational funding will be provided for:

- additional rehabilitation beds at Eventide in Sandgate, Brisbane
- more rehabilitation beds at Rockhampton Base Hospital with outreach services to Yeppoon and Mt Morgan
- new, world class online tools to assist doctors and nurses to assess elderly patients faster.

In total, \$71 million operational funding, and \$14.7 million capital funding has been promised to deliver on these commitments. This funding also includes new rehabilitation and step-down beds at Parklands in Townsville to commence in 2010-11.

Health infrastructure

Generating and supporting jobs is the Queensland Government's number one priority, hence the decision to preserve its \$17 billion capital works program. In 2009-10, Queensland Health will invest almost \$1.3 billion in new and continuing infrastructure projects, with \$817.7 million towards a more than \$7.5 billion program of hospital projects including:

- \$268.4 million to continue planning and development of three new tertiary hospitals – Queensland Children's

Hospital, Gold Coast University Hospital and Sunshine Coast University Hospital

- \$6 million in 2009-10 (\$80 million over five years) to establish an Academic and Research Centre at the new Queensland Children's Hospital. This vital centre will enhance the new hospital's ability to attract and retain leading specialists in child and youth health, as well as supporting progress in priority areas of research
- \$108.2 million towards continuing redevelopments of the Cairns, Mackay and Mount Isa Hospitals to meet the needs of our rapidly growing population in north Queensland
- \$113.5 million towards redevelopments at the Townsville and Rockhampton Hospitals. These redevelopments have been further expanded with an additional investment by the Australian Government through its Health and Hospitals Fund. The Townsville Hospital will receive an additional \$250 million over five years, while Rockhampton Hospital will receive an additional \$76 million over three year to facilitate further health care improvements to the communities of northern and central Queensland
- \$71 million in 2009-10 for community health services, including community health centres at Cairns and Gladstone. This also includes \$17 million to continue

Developing health infrastructure

Continuing redevelopment of Cairns Base Hospital Emergency Department – part of the \$108.2 million investment that includes Mackay and Mt Isa hospitals.





Redevelopment at Rockhampton Hospital.

delivery of primary health care centres at Saibai Island and Yarrabah.

Cancer services

This budget funds expanded cancer services and provides greater support for Queenslanders travelling from remote and rural areas for cancer treatment.

A \$15 million package of grants across three years will go to non-government organisations to accommodate patients from rural and remote communities, when they travel to receive cancer treatment in regional centres such as Rockhampton, Townsville, Mount Isa and Cairns.

The first of these grants is \$1 million towards a new \$2 million cancer education support and accommodation centre at Rockhampton, for rural and regional patients travelling to the city for cancer treatment and diagnosis.

Building on this investment, Rockhampton Hospital will receive a \$6.5 million capital injection for a new oncology centre. This new centre will provide an additional 4,410 cancer treatment sessions each year, and employ at least 10 additional oncology staff. Prior to the development additional treatment sessions will commence in 2009-10 using visiting oncology specialists.

Cancer services at Cairns Base Hospital will also be expanded, with \$3.2 million recurrent funding in 2009-10 to operate five new chemotherapy chairs.

Mothers and babies

The Queensland Government has committed \$42.7 million over three years for maternity and child health care including new clinics that will bring extra care closer to pregnant women in rural areas of the state and offer parenting support to more mothers throughout the state.

The program includes:

- \$25 million to expand the neo-natal intensive care unit at the Townsville Hospital, with an additional \$9 million to fund ongoing services to provide the most advanced facilities for north Queensland's sickest babies, particularly those who are premature newborns and others with respiratory problems
- \$5 million investment in new maternity services in regional and rural areas to give one-on-one midwifery support to women in Atherton, Gladstone, Longreach, Dalby, Ipswich, Caboolture, Logan, Charters Towers and Proserpine
- \$2.7 million for newborn and family drop-in clinics with specialist advice for new parents on a range of topics such as breastfeeding, nutrition and child development, in Hervey Bay, Mount Isa, Bundaberg, Caboolture, Redcliffe/Deception Bay, Kingaroy, Longreach, Proserpine and Emerald
- \$1 million capital funding in 2009-10 for a new birthing centre at Toowoomba Hospital.

Mental health

\$48.4 million capital funding for enhancements to mental health services, primarily under the Queensland Plan for Mental Health 2007-2017, as well as new mental health beds at Bundaberg.

Technology

- \$87.1 million for projects in e-Health Clinical Systems and other similar systems including:
 - new statewide radiology information system
 - digital technology for breast-screening
- \$86.2 million for information and communication



Projects in e-Health Clinical Systems include digital technology for breast-screening.

State Budget 2009–10 Agency Budget Highlights

technology equipment to support the e-Health strategy and clinical information systems

- \$84.5 million for advanced health technology equipment
- \$11.1 million for the Forensic and Scientific Services' forensic laboratory, and upgrades to its infrastructure and information systems, including a pathology laboratory at Hervey Bay Hospital.

More staff

In 2009–10, additional doctors, nurses and allied health professionals will be employed as part of the “100,000 jobs to keep Queensland strong policy”, with a target of employing over 3500 more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals over the next three years.

Job creation

Queensland Health will receive \$11.4 million over four years as part of the Government's Sustainable Resource Communities initiatives. Sustainable Resource Communities is a \$100 million initiative focusing on job creation in key mining communities.

\$3.6 million capital funding in 2009–10 will fund the following projects:

- \$0.83 million for new dialysis patient accommodation at Mount Isa

- \$0.56 to expand the Middlemount Community Health Centre (total cost of \$0.65 million)
- \$0.4 million for new staff accommodation at Moranbah, Clermont and Dysart (total cost of \$1.6 million)
- \$1.82 million for new staff accommodation at Mount Isa.

Funding will also be provided from 2010–11 for a new aged care annex at the Cloncurry Hospital (total cost of \$6.5 million).

Demand management

\$56 million in capital funding to progress projects to address health service demand management requirements throughout the state.

Continuing major health capital initiatives

A range of continuing health initiatives will be progressed in 2009–10, including:

- Robina Hospital expansion (\$240 million)
- Sunshine Coast Health Service District additional bed capacity (\$191 million)
- Princess Alexandra Hospital additional bed capacity including upgrade of the Emergency Department (\$52 million)
- Bundaberg Hospital expansion (\$41.3 million).



Robina Hospital Emergency Department



Queensland
Government

State Budget 2009–10

Minister's Office contact details

Phone: 07 3234 1191 Fax: 07 3229 4731

www.budget.qld.gov.au