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1 Introduction

Queensland Health recognises the importance of regular attendance to an oral health professional. Throughout the state, Queensland Health provides oral health clinics to service eligible clients and their dependents. (Eligible clients include holders of pension and concession cards, health care cards and senior cards.) Clinics are provided to a range of communities and are diverse in terms of size, services provided, and support services and areas required. Queensland Health oral health facilities may be stand alone units, part of a community health complex, or part of a hospital complex.

In order to establish a common standard for oral health facilities, this document provides a set of design guidelines and recommendations for oral health facilities provided by Queensland Health.

In recognition of the level of diversity amongst oral health facilities throughout Queensland, this document also identifies some of the issues which should be taken into consideration at the planning stage.

The guidelines presented in this document respond to the current functional requirements of oral health clinics, in addition to ensuring capacity to adapt to changes in technology and service provision.

The Challenge

Built oral health facilities should support the effective and efficient provision of oral health services to eligible clients. In order to do this, the following outcomes should be achieved by facility designs:

- ▶ Safe, hygienic buildings
- ▶ Capacity to achieve accreditation to an appropriate level
- ▶ Innovative, stimulating and responsive environment for patients and staff
- ▶ Flexibility to allow for future change
- ▶ Maximum energy efficiency
- ▶ Accessibility for disabled persons
- ▶ Capacity to support the development and retention of high quality staff to meet the needs of patients.

The development of this guidelines document has been directed by these outcomes.

What the guidelines cover

This document makes recommendations as to the standard of facility required to support the effective provision of oral health services. Design guidelines and suggested levels of accommodation in fixed oral health facilities provided by Queensland Health are presented.

How Oral Health Facilities Work

Outlines key aspects of the way oral health facilities operate. Facility design should support these operational policies and it is important that these are borne in mind throughout the planning and design stages. Built oral health facilities will be required to support the effective implementation of operational policies.

What Oral Health Facilities Include

Identifies the range of areas that would generally be included in oral health facilities and gives an indication as to space required. Additionally, key functional relationships are developed.

Design Recommendations – Critical Areas

The key areas in oral health facilities of surgeries, sterilisation areas and laboratories are discussed in this section. Issues addressed include function, workflow and design options. Appropriate room data sheets and indicative plans are also provided.

Design Recommendations – General Areas

Room data sheets and indicative plans are provided for those general areas which support the functionality of oral health facilities.

How to use the guidelines

This document presents design guidelines and recommended accommodation standards for fixed oral health facilities provided by Queensland Health. The guidelines apply only to new clinics, or those undergoing major redevelopment and are not intended to provide a standard, whole facility design. Rather, design options, room data sheets and indicative plans are individually provided for key areas typically required in oral health facilities. Alternatives are provided for facilities of differing sizes or particular requirements. It is the intention that these areas be selected and combined at planning stages in order to develop facilities appropriate to their location and the community they serve.

Architects, health facility planners and specialist consultants are encouraged to use this document as a starting point for the development of innovative designs which are safe, cost effective, user friendly and environmentally sound.