

September 15, 2009

## Bundaberg review recommendations welcomed

Queensland Health Director General Mr Michael Reid today welcomed the public release of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission report on credentialing at Bundaberg Hospital.

Mr Reid said the six recommendations in the report had either been fully implemented or processes had been established to ensure their implementation. The implementation in some cases was completed as early as February 2009.

"Queensland Health has worked co-operatively with the HQCC from when the issue was identified in late January this year," Mr Reid said.

"Immediate action to ensure all doctors were correctly credentialed took place when deficiencies in the credentialing process became apparent."

Credentialing is a process by which a doctor's qualifications and experience are assessed and validated. Following that process, a defined scope of clinical practice is granted to the doctor.

For example, a heart surgeon might be credentialed with a scope of clinical practice that allows him or her to perform heart surgery at a major tertiary facility where such operations are routinely undertaken. The same surgeon would not be granted such scope of clinical practice to perform that surgery at another hospital that did not have the capacity to undertake and support such procedures.

"It is important to note all doctors had some level of credentialing and the majority had current credentialing at other Queensland hospitals, including the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and The Prince Charles Hospital," Mr Reid said.

"Further, there were no incidences of any of these doctors being involved in any adverse clinical events."

The report's recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been implemented. Recommendation 2 has been accepted and a revised standard has been issued. This recommendation requires a review of the Credentialing and Scope of Practice Standard at least every three years.

**Ends....**

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