

REPORT CARD ON QUEENSLAND HEALTH REFORM

Queensland Health is rolling out \$6.4 Billion in extra funding through the *Health Action Plan* over five years.

It's a long-term commitment to building a better health system - \$547.6 million extra in 2005-06, rising to an extra \$1.5 billion a year in 2010-11.

This unprecedented allocation of resources will help cut waiting lists, perform more operations and buy new technology and equipment. It will deliver more doctors, more nurses, more allied health professionals, better training and better services for you and your family.

In fact, we believe we are laying the foundation for building the best health system in Australia.

MEDICAL WORKFORCE:

- Queensland Health is employing more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. For the period June 2005 to February 2006:
 - Doctor numbers have increased from 4,552 to 4,742 – up 190
 - Nursing numbers have increased from 21,911 to 22,722 – up 811 (well in excess of the target of 500 set in the Action Plan)
 - Allied health professional numbers have increased from 5,806 to 6,104 – up 298.
- 91 extra doctors, nurses and allied health professionals have been recruited to Queensland since September through our international and interstate recruitment campaign. A further 218 are under consideration.
- 109 new doctors from interstate and overseas have been registered by the Medical Board of Queensland to work in our public hospitals since January.
- \$1 billion improved pay and conditions package delivered for doctors, including visiting medical officers, working in Queensland public hospitals.
- Nearly \$1 billion improved pay and conditions package, including a cumulative 25.3% pay rise over three years, is being offered to Queensland's 22,000 public sector nurses.
- A new certified agreement delivered for hospital staff, including operational staff, building and maintenance workers.
- Allied health professionals voted 79% in favour of a new subsidiary agreement with Queensland Health.

- A \$91 million accommodation program to provide 280 extra homes in regional and rural areas – plus improved regional allowances – will help attract more doctors and nurses to work in the bush.
- Queensland's 'Train 325 Campaign' resulted in a Commonwealth commitment to provide more medical student places at universities to boost locally-trained doctor numbers.

HOSPITAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE:

Record extra funding for health includes an additional:

- \$463.7 Million for cancer services;
- \$280.3 Million for emergency departments;
- \$259.7 Million for elective surgery;
- \$229.8 Million for intensive care units;
- \$210.9 Million for cardiac services;
- \$201 Million for mental health services;
- \$127 Million for workforce training;
- \$44.5 Million for renal services.

In addition:

- 66 new public hospital beds are being opened in public hospitals to ease pressure on emergency departments and a further 170 hospital beds will be opened throughout Queensland next year.
- A \$3 million pilot program is underway to identify solutions to “access block” and improve patient flow through hospitals.
- \$40 million is being invested now in new technology medical equipment for hospitals throughout Queensland, including Brisbane, Cairns, Rockhampton, Mackay, Bundaberg, Toowoomba and Mareeba.
- \$178 million redevelopment of the Mater Hospital Complex, including a new Mater Mothers Hospital, is underway.
- \$84.5 million redevelopment of The Prince Charles Hospital is underway.
- \$15.7 million upgrade of Wondai Hospital underway.
- The Caboolture Hospital Emergency Department will re-open a 24-hour service from 18 April. As an interim measure, from Monday March 27 the Emergency Department - currently open between 8 am and 4pm - will operate until 11pm each day.

- 13 HEALTH 24-hour medical assistance hotline is operational in North Queensland and will be available throughout Queensland in April.

RESTRUCTURE AND REFORM:

- The internal reorganisation of Queensland Health is finalised and the department is now operating under the new streamlined structure.
- 149 of 168 head office jobs have been abolished as recommended by the Forster Review with a further 19 positions to be abolished by April.
- 1,150 head office staff are being transferred to local health districts to support doctors, medical recruitment and emergency departments.
- A new *Statewide Health Services Plan* and *Area Health Services Plans* are under development in consultation with clinical stakeholders.
- Nationally respected health expert, Professor Stephen Duckett, is overseeing implementation of reform and development programs.
- Clinical advisory groups of senior doctors throughout Queensland have been established to advise the government on reform and emergent clinical issues.
- Four Clinical CEO positions have been created for senior doctors to manage and co-ordinate medical services at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Rockhampton and Cairns Hospitals.
- Clinical networks of doctors/medical staff have been established for hospital emergency departments.
- Nationally respected doctor and academic, Dr Cheryl Hirst, has been appointed to steer reforms to maternity services.

CULTURAL CHANGE, PERFORMANCE & OPENNESS:

- A new Code of Conduct is in place for all Queensland Health staff.
- \$3 million is being invested over two years to improve workplace culture and eliminate bullying through a new Workplace Culture and Leadership Centre.
- A new Leadership Development Program starts in May for the top 300 senior staff to develop and improve their management skills to help repair the department's damaged culture.

- A new regular staff survey will start in April to measure staff feedback on workplace issues like staff relationships and morale, involvement in decision-making, workloads and the level of support they get from managers.
- A new independent Health Quality and Complaints Commission will be established by mid 2006 to service public and staff complaints. Dr John Youngman, a leading national expert on health quality and safety, is overseeing establishment of the Commission.
- Reporting on hospital activity, emergency department performance, medical staffing and patient safety and quality issues now appear, for the first time, on the Queensland Health website.

PATIENTS OF DR JAYANT PATEL:

- Most former patients of Dr Patel who contacted the Bundaberg Hospital Patient Liaison Service have had their follow-up operations and surgical procedures completed.
- The State Government has to date spent more than \$1.8 million providing on-going treatment for patients of Dr Patel; including medical and hospital expenses plus patient travel-related costs.
- Financial compensation claims by patients of Dr Patel are being progressed through the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Bundaberg Hospital Patient Liaison Service records show that to date:

- 155 Patel patients have had their surgery completed;
- 12 others still require on-going surgery and have been booked for a procedure;
- 273 have undergone endoscopes and gastroscopes;
- 175 Category 2 patients have had repeat scopes completed;
- 662 cases have been fully assessed by doctors and determined to require no further action;
- 410 individual patients have received counselling.