

Queensland Health

Health and Safety Governance Policy

People are the focus of Queensland Health and we consider safety, health and wellbeing to be of fundamental importance in continually improving the quality of healthcare services provided and the standard of safety in the workplace.

Queensland Health considers that the delivery of safe, quality healthcare to our service users is intrinsically linked to the provision of a safe, supportive and healthy work environment for our employees and those affected by our activities.

Safety for ALL



**Queensland
Government**
Queensland Health

health • care • people

Framework

Queensland Health aims to ensure health and safety is an integral part of all our management systems and core operations. Queensland Health recognises the benefits to be achieved by managing reporting, responsibilities, planning and resourcing through the design, development and implementation of an Integrated Safety Management System.

Executive management responsibilities

All executive managers should have a clear understanding of the key health and safety issues pertaining to the business and their relevant business area and should be open to continuous development of their skills and knowledge of these key issues. Further to this, all executive managers should understand their legal responsibilities and their role in managing health and safety matters for their business.

Principles of health and safety governance

Queensland Health's approach to health and safety governance is reflected by the following principles:

Culture, standards and values

Executive managers have ownership of key health and safety issues and are safety leaders promoting improved health and safety performance and upholding core safety values and standards. Executive managers actively promote and inspire a just culture across the organisation which supports learning, transparency and open reporting.

Strategic implications

Executive managers are responsible for driving the health and safety agenda, understanding the risks and opportunities associated with health and safety matters which might compromise the core values and standards, and ultimately establishing a strategy to respond.

Performance management

Executive managers develop and review health and safety outcomes and formulate and approve response strategies to emerging issues. The performance indicators used are specific to the organisational safety drivers and link with the organisation's Safety Management System. Independent external systems audits will continue in accordance with Queensland Health's business requirements.

Internal control

Executive managers ensure that health and safety risks are managed adequately and that the Safety Management System implementation promotes continuous improvement and sustained changes in safety management are developed.

Implementation

This policy statement is enacted through legislative compliance and the implementation standards, procedures and guidelines documented in the Queensland Health Safety Management System and is incorporated within the Occupational Health and Safety Policy hierarchy.

Michael Reid
Director-General

October 2008

Version 2 Review Date: October 2010 Subject to changes in legislation, operational activities, or occupational health and safety performance.

Notwithstanding this policy remains in force until such time as it is revoked.