

Additional reporting requirements community engagement

Good health enables people to participate fully in community life. Safe, supportive communities improve health by removing many threats to health such as violence, anxiety, economic hardship and social isolation.

One of the most important ways in which Queensland Health involves Queenslanders in decision-making is through the work of district health councils.

A district health council has been appointed for each health service district. Membership varies, but generally represents a balance between community and health providers, public and private sectors, government and non-government, population groups, groups with special needs and professional groups. Districts with tertiary institutions who educate health practitioners at public sector health services facilities may also have representatives of those institutions on their councils.

District health councils contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of health services by:

- identifying and assessing the health service needs of their health service district

- helping to develop strategic plans for the district
- monitoring compliance with strategic plans, health services agreements and budgets and the quality of public sector health services delivered in the district
- deciding priorities for minor capital works and monitoring district works and asset management programs
- advising the district manager in developing health services agreements; and
- reporting to the Minister on the performance of functions under the *Health Services Act 1991*

Each council has between eight and 10 members who are appointed by the Governor in Council on the nomination of the Minister for Health.

Another component of Queensland Health's commitment to community engagement is the Consumer and

Community Participation program.

During 2002-03, 17 consumer and community participation pilot projects were implemented within the districts. An additional 17 projects have been funded for the 2003-04 financial year. These include:

- Getting to know us, a project to enhance communication between the Northern Downs Health Service District Health Council and its community
- *Pulling the pieces together*, a community participation plan and 'toolkit' for the QEII Jubilee Hospital Health Service District
- the formation of a disability action group in West Moreton Health Service District that has strong links with existing groups such as the regional disability council

Good health enables people to participate fully in community life. In addition to the work of district health councils and the Consumer and Community Participation Program, the contribution of Queensland Health and individual districts to community engagement included participation in the State Government's Community Renewal Program, including:

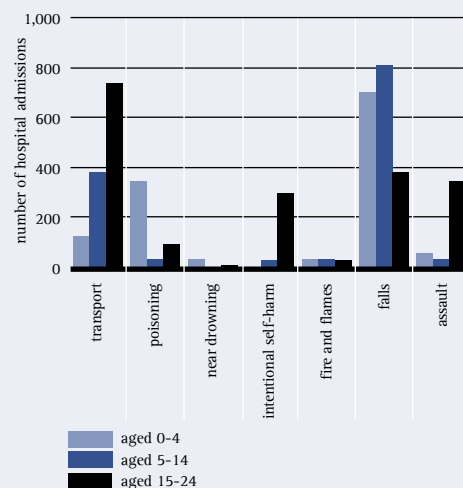
- Local Area Physical Activity Plan Project to promote healthy lifestyles in the Caboolture and Deception Bay Areas
- Physical Activity Support Packages for Deception Bay and Caboolture South
- Family CARE for Young Parents, a home-based early intervention program in the Ipswich district
- The Eagleby Health project, which will include the acquisition of a suitable permanent facility in Eagleby for a range of health services
- Learn, Work and Play - Healthy Schools in Deception Bay, which will involve working in partnership with the school communities

fast facts

Safe, supportive communities improve health by removing or reducing the likelihood of many threats to health such as violence, anxiety, economic hardship and social isolation

Leading injury-related causes of admission to Queensland hospitals

Children and young people, 2001 to 2002



Source: Queensland Health