

# performance

## Balancing our investment in health: work with other agencies

### strategy 13

Work with other agencies to ensure effective whole-of-Government policies that provide the essentials for health – healthy livable environments, safe cohesive communities, access to quality education and paid employment

#### Key achievements

- Facilitated the development of the Queensland Government *Suicide Prevention Strategy 2003 – 2008*. The strategy gives priority to seven high-risk populations and identifies outcome areas in fields such as mental health promotion, illness prevention, early intervention with high risk groups, quality treatment and follow-up, and postvention
- Implemented the Drug Court pilot program in Townsville and Cairns Health Service Districts in partnership with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Department of Corrective Services and the Queensland Police Service. The program has assisted in home- and outpatient-based drug withdrawals and referred clients to local community

organisations. Other services include training for community organisations, consultations for clients at a diversionary centre and a drop-in centre, and acute services which link with Indigenous and local support services

- Improved services for homeless people through initiatives such as the Homeless People's Project in Mount Isa, with the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Department of Public Works, Mount Isa City Council, MIM Holdings Limited, Queensland Police Service and local Indigenous peoples. A health worker will provide visiting services to the newly opened men's hostel, and eventually to other hostels
- Developed protocols and partnerships with the Queensland Police Service to coordinate care for people with

a mental illness who may require assistance from both services

- Improved services for people requiring residential accommodation (boarding houses, hostels, rental complexes for aged people and supported accommodation), including:
  - the Resident Support Program, in collaboration with Disability Services Queensland, to improve access to health services for people living in the private residential services sector
  - a project with the Department of Housing to improve services for people with mental illness who require social housing
  - working with Anglicare in the Gladstone Health Service District to address accommodation needs through the Community Rent Scheme
  - working with Disability Services Queensland on alternative accommodation for clients with intellectual disabilities who are currently located at the Transitional Care Unit at Charters Towers Hospital
- Entered into a partnership agreement with six other government departments to develop and promote smart housing designs. Queensland Health's involvement involves promoting injury-prevention design and housing as a social determinant of health
- Implemented the *MindMatters* key mental health promotion program in all public and private high schools, in partnership with Education Queensland, Queensland Catholic Education Commission and the Association of Independent Schools Queensland
- Participated in a Family Violence Agreement Working Group, a whole-of-government group under the auspices of the Queensland Government's Ten-Year Partnership. The group developed an action plan





to address family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities for the next 10 years

- Operated the watchhouse nursing service program in a partnership between The Prince Charles Hospital Health Service District's Alcohol and Drug Service, the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Government Medical Officer program
- Established specialist early childhood, schools, sport and local government and workplace implementation groups under the Queensland Skin Cancer Prevention Strategic Plan 2001-2005
- Provided support and training to teachers in schools on the use of the Queensland Health HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health website (see *istaysafe* website at right) for young people as a curriculum resource, and working with children with acquired brain injury
- Developed and distribute Safe Playgrounds Information Kits to schools and local government bodies
- Commenced referrals to the Child and Youth Forensic Outreach Services, part of the Royal Children's Hospital and Health Service District's Child and Youth Mental Health Service. The service aims to strengthen inter-sectoral links and increase collaboration between agencies providing mental health, health, education, housing, social welfare and recreational services
- Established the Cross Agency Working Group on Therapy Services for 0-to-6 year olds, a priority strategy in the *Queensland Health Strategic Policy Framework for Children's and Young People's Health 2002-2007* (see page 18). This project will identify gaps and overlap in therapy service provision across Queensland Government departments and the non-government sector

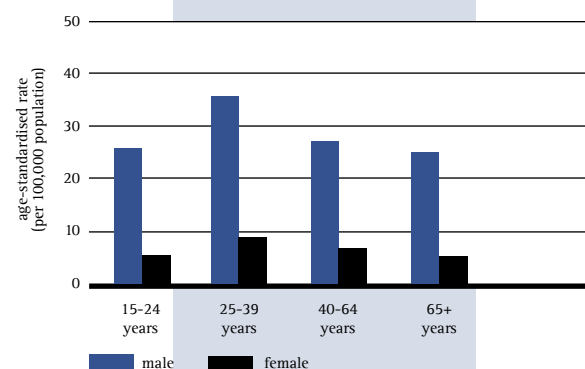
## Outlook

- Undertake a 'sharing of information' project with Education Queensland, the Department of Families and the Queensland Police Service regarding child protection issues
- Conduct the Policing and Mental Illness International Conference in November 2003, with the Queensland Police Service and Queensland University of Technology
- Establish tourism and sun protection products implementation groups under the Queensland Skin Cancer Prevention Strategic Plan
- Update education source books and the *istaysafe* youth website – <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/istaysafe/> – to more effectively incorporate reproductive health
- Distribute the *Good Practice Guidelines for Local Councils for the Inspection of Domestic Swimming Pools and Spas* to all local governments in Queensland
- Contribute to the development of a sustainable building code for Queensland
- In partnership with the Department of Housing, complete a research study by Queensland University of Technology and CSIRO into barriers faced by industry and consumers when incorporating safety features and devices into homes

*Suicide rates are higher for men and peak in men aged 25-39 years*

*The Suicide Prevention Strategy takes a whole-of-government approach and gives priority to a number of at-risk populations*

*Suicide mortality rates by age group and gender Queensland 1999 to 2001*



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics