

## Section 3 Performance



### Acute inpatient services

This covers hospital-based medical, surgical and obstetric treatment and management services provided through a network of public hospitals across the State. It includes initiatives such as the reduction of elective surgery waiting times, access to emergency retrieval services and maternity services.

#### Our people

Our people are a dedicated team of medical, nursing, allied health and other health professionals, while administrative and support staff provide an integrated continuum of care for all who are treated in hospitals.

*committed to equity and universal access*

#### Providing care to our community

Queensland Health is committed to equity and universal access to our high quality acute hospital services for people throughout Queensland, enhancing hospital services in cities and rural areas.

### Key achievements

#### Improved medical services

- An additional \$6.2 million for intensive care units has achieved greater efficiency of intensive care beds, resulting in a reduction in transfers and reduced cancellations of elective surgery across the State.

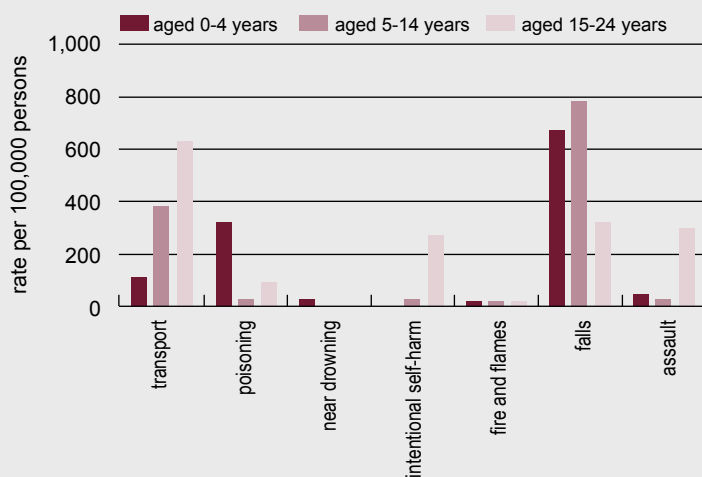
This has been achieved through the development of networks of intensive care unit services and inter-hospital transfer arrangements across Southeast Queensland, including Royal Brisbane, Prince Charles, Redcliffe-Caboolture, Gold Coast, Logan Beaudesert, Princess Alexandra and Ipswich Hospitals.

Specific achievements included:

- the continued ability of Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, as a tertiary hospital, to provide referral intensive care for patients with complex conditions, supporting other centres throughout the State;
- consolidation of intensive care units, the High Dependency Unit and Surgical Intensive Care Unit into one site as part of the redevelopment of Townsville Hospital;
- the Gold Coast Hospital Intensive Care Unit has increased the number of Intensive Care Unit admissions at Gold Coast Hospital from 846 in 2002-03 to 969 in 2003-04; and
- Logan Hospital Intensive Care Unit has increased bed capacity to six by opening an additional bed with an occupancy level of 85 per cent.

#### Injury in younger people

Leading injury-related causes of hospitalisation for children and young people by age group, Queensland, 2002-03



Source: Health Information Branch, Queensland Health



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- An amount of \$13.2 million was invested in enhancing oncology and cancer care services in a number of health service districts: \$2 million was provided to Cairns and Townsville health service districts. Cancer equipment was installed at Townsville Hospital, and \$0.6 million was allocated to running costs and specialist staff. The equipment included a 3D treatment planning system and CT (computed tomography imaging) scanner replacement.
- A total of \$4 million was invested in enhancing hospital inpatient and home-based patient renal dialysis services in North Queensland. In addition, new four-chair renal dialysis services were established at Cooktown and Thursday Island, with coordination and support from the Cairns Base Hospital Renal Unit.
- Some \$2 million allocated to Cairns District increased the number of patients training to do dialysis at home. They were assisted by amalgamation of resources and employment of a renal nurse educator.
- There was an increase in the number of children referred to the Queensland Paediatric Rehabilitation Service. Rehabilitation Department activity was up by a substantial amount compared with the previous financial year, with a 52 per cent increase in admissions and a 65 per cent increase in occupied bed days. This indicated improved access to this specialised service.
- Establishment of an integrated paediatric intensive care service by The Prince Charles Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital and Mater

Children's Hospital. As part of the development, The Prince Charles Hospital has enhanced the level of support provided to patients requiring paediatric intensive care services following cardiac surgery. This has been achieved by employing more paediatric intensive care specialists and medical staff.

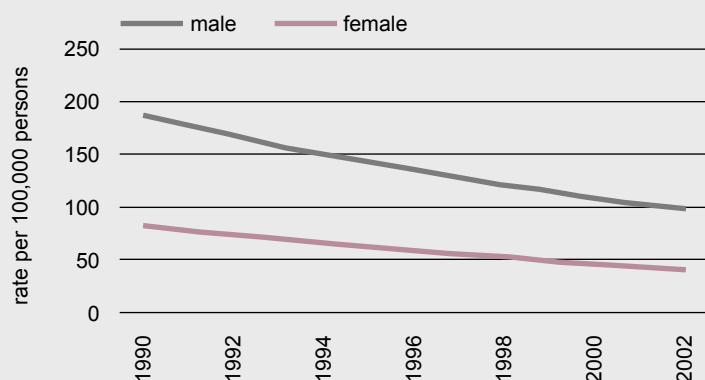
- Cairns Health Service District increased its Intensive Care Unit critical care capacity by employing six new nurses and establishing a two-bed high dependency unit.
- Additional staff were appointed in 2003-04 to the cardiac team at The Princess Alexandra Hospital to provide additional cardiac surgery for patients from August 2004.
- The Prince Charles Hospital successfully implanted three ventricular assist devices (VADs). The VAD is a portable device designed to save the lives of patients who have had life threatening heart failure. It acts as a heart after heart failure and is sometimes used in patients awaiting a heart transplant.
- A combined surgical team from The Prince Charles Hospital and the Princess Alexandra Hospital successfully performed Australia's first triple organ (heart-lung-liver) transplant at The Prince Charles Hospital in 2003.
- Canadian cardiologist, Dr Joel Kirsh performed a specialist cardiac cryoablation procedure on a child for the first time in Queensland in November 2003. Cryoablation is a minimally invasive procedure

*development of networks of intensive care unit services and inter-hospital transfer arrangements*



### Heart disease

Heart disease death rates by sex, persons 0-79 years, Queensland, 1990 to 2002



Source: ABS and Health Information Branch, Queensland Health



*increased  
availability of  
medical services  
and capacity*

used to correct abnormally fast heart beats, commonly known as arrhythmias. Cardiologists from The Prince Charles Hospital were given an opportunity to learn the new technique.

- Townsville Hospital attracted a full complement of cardiologists and cardio-thoracic surgeons, significantly reducing waiting lists for angiograms (x-ray of blood vessels) and angioplasties (repair of a blood vessel, either by inserting a balloon-tipped catheter to unblock it, or by reconstructing or replacing part of the vessel).
- Services to patients throughout the Redcliffe-Caboolture Health Service District were enhanced with increased medical beds and medical ward refurbishment at Caboolture and Redcliffe Hospitals. This has resulted in less waiting time in emergency departments for the admission of medical patients.
- Logan Hospital has opened two new medical wards resulting in increased availability of medical services and capacity.
- Logan Hospital has also improved renal dialysis services for patients by providing an additional dialysis chair and increasing the number of service hours available to patients.
- Birthing suites at the Bundaberg Base Hospital were relocated from the first floor of the Family Unit to the ground floor. The new birthing suites are now collocated with obstetric inpatient services, providing efficiencies and modernity.

*Improved access to surgery*

- The Commonwealth Report on Government Services 2003 asserted that Queensland's public hospital system had achieved the shortest waiting times in Australia. Queensland Health improved on that during 2003-04 and as at 1 July 2004:
  - only 1.1 per cent of Category 1 (urgent) elective surgery patients had waited longer than clinically recommended time for their surgery. This is the best result since July 1998; and
  - only 2.3 per cent of Category 2 (semi-urgent) elective surgery patients had waited longer than clinically recommended for their surgery. This is the best result since the collection of waiting list data began in 1996.
- Supplementary funding of \$10 million allocated in 2003-04 ensured continuation of the Elective Surgery Enhancement Initiative and increased access to elective surgery services across a broad range of specialties.
- Additional funding of \$20 million for elective surgery as part of the Government's 2004 election commitments targeted services for patients waiting longer than clinically desirable for treatment. In the five months to 30 June 2004, a total of 4,793 more patients were treated.
- Advances were sustained in day surgery and day-of-surgery admission rates in 2003-04, with the 50 per cent day surgery target exceeded and the day-of-surgery admission rate increased to 76.8 per cent.

*Improved hospital and health facilities*

Capital projects and facilities completed during 2003-04, contributing to improved delivery of acute hospital-based services, included:

- refurbishing the surgical ward at the Atherton Hospital to permit integration of maternity services and improve accommodation for renal services;
- providing an eight-chair haemodialysis (filtering of waste products from the blood) facility for the Mt Isa and catchment area;
- a cost-efficient energy system at Toowoomba and Baillie Henderson Hospitals;
- building a medical officer residence at Badu Island (Commonwealth funded);
- building staff accommodation at Gayndah Hospital; and



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- building staff accommodation at Bamaga.

Capital projects commenced or continued in 2003-04 included the:

- redevelopment of Ayr Hospital to improve acute hospital and community-based services;
- redevelopment of Innisfail Hospital to improve functionality of services and address significant building engineering requirements;
- construction of a new clinical services building at Gympie Hospital to accommodate a new operating theatre suite and medical imaging department;
- refurbishment of Block 7 at the Herston Hospitals Complex to accommodate statewide pathology, information services and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital support services;
- construction of an education centre and auditorium at the Herston hospitals complex;
- expansion of on-site car parking area at Caboolture Hospital;
- provision of a cardiac catheter laboratory at Gold Coast Hospital;
- redevelopment of The Prince Charles Hospital emergency department and providing general hospital services;
- construction of the Queensland Health Skills Development Centre at the Herston hospitals complex, which will develop skills of Queensland Health staff; and
- construction of further accommodation at Thursday Island to help attract and retain staff.

Output:	Measure		2003-04 Target	2003-04 Estimated Actuals (2004-05 MPS)	2003-04 Performance - for Annual Report
Acute Inpatient Services	Quantity	Acute inpatient episodes of care	690,000 – 710,000	703,598	697,765
		Acute inpatient weighted episodes of care	1,380,000 – 1,440,000	1,469,025	1,456,223
		Same day episodes of care	330,000 – 340,000	346,786	343,576
		Same day episodes of care as a proportion of total episodes of care	48.5 – 49.5%	49.3%	49.2%
	Occupied bed days	2,150,000 – 2,250,000	2,115,451	2,091,687	
	Average length of stay	3.08	3.01	3.00	
	Quality	Facilities and services with recognised third party accreditation including use of patient satisfaction assessment systems	105	163	177
	Timeliness	Elective surgery patients receiving treatment in specified timeframe:			
		Category 1 (30 days) see Note 1	95%	95%	98.9%
		Category 2 (90 days) see Note 1	95%	95%	97.7%
	Cost	Average Cost per weighted episode of Care	No target	\$2,632	2,631

*Note 1:* The 2003-04 estimated actual reports the proportion of patients waiting within clinically recommended timeframes. This reporting protocol has been used to align with the Statewide Waiting List Targets.