



Overseas travel

In the health industry, travel by clinical and professional staff is critical to upgrade knowledge and skills, keep up with trends in health care particularly in relation to health systems and medical technology and to transfer Queensland

Approximately 99 per cent of the trips were to attend conferences, congresses and seminars to present papers or to participate in training, study tours and visits to international health facilities. The remaining one per cent of travel related to health administration and management outcomes.

Seventy-five per cent of all trips (372) were for award-based travel with a total expenditure of \$1,736,089.18 and 126 trips were for non-award based travel at a cost of \$427,958.62, of which 52 per cent was from trust funds.

Funding sources for all travel comprised \$1,841,171.29 from operational budgets with 15 per cent of all costs for travel coming from trust funds. Additional funding amounting to \$57,859.37 came from external sources and is not included in the below figures.

<i>Destinations</i>	<i>Number of trips</i>	<i>% of trips</i>
Europe	151	30
New Zealand	149	30
North America	135	27
Asia	44	9
Africa	10	2
South America	9	2

Consultancy expenditure

<i>Consultancy category</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
Administration	1,219,042.34
Financial and Accounting	0.00
Information and technology	0.00
Human Resource Management	552,028.18
Communications	0.00
Professional and technical	418,548.51
Total	2,189,619.03

Clinical drug trials

Queensland Health participates in a wide range of clinical trials sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. These trials contribute significantly to the continuing progress of medical treatment.

In 2003-04, 11 health service districts participated in clinical drug trials worth over \$4 million in sponsorship from a wide variety of pharmaceutical companies.

In accordance with the National Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans, all research, including clinical trials carried out in Queensland Health facilities are subject to stringent examination by the Human Research Ethics Committee.

Researchers are required to demonstrate that informed consent is obtained from all participants before they are recruited into trials. Research protocols must include close monitoring of patients involved. All serious adverse incidents are reported to the Human Research Ethics Committee.

All funds received from pharmaceutical companies to conduct research are managed according to Queensland Health financial practice management standards.

The Office of the Chief Health Officer's responsibilities in relation to clinical drug trials include: