



# smart

statebudget  
2003-04



## Budget Highlights

### Queensland Health

# Queensland Health

## Message from the Minister

### Investing for a Healthy Future

In 2003-04, the Queensland Government is investing a record \$4.63 billion to secure a healthy future for Queenslanders.



This is an increase of \$300 million on the 2002-03 Budget and is part of an additional \$1 billion over four years, strengthening Queensland's public health system to meet challenges brought about by strong population growth, new technologies and rising health care costs.

Our strategic vision for the future is a safe, high quality health care system that is sustainable - a health system for Queenslanders that ranks with the world's best.

#### Budget highlights include:

- An additional \$13.2 million to manage demand for cancer treatment services across the State.
- An extra \$13.1 million to realign and expand renal dialysis services for hospital in-patient and home based care.
- A \$6.2 million additional investment to manage increased demand in intensive care services across the State.
- Continued investment of \$10 million for the Elective Surgery Enhancement initiative to reduce waiting times for elective surgery in Queensland hospitals. Queensland continues to have the shortest elective surgery waiting times in Australia, according to the Productivity Commission (2003).
- A \$7.3 million investment to establish a statewide Skills Development Centre at Herston.
- An additional \$8 million in a full year (\$2 million in 2003-04) for additional inpatient medical services, to manage demand on emergency departments at Logan and Caboolture Hospitals.
- A \$210 million investment in health technology over the next four years for medical equipment.
- A \$272 million investment in capital initiatives in 2003-04, including expansion of community health networks, the continued rebuilding of the State Government residential aged care facilities, and information technology projects.
- An additional \$3.6 million to assist with the management of patient travel requirements.
- An additional \$3.2 million to manage demand on cardiac services across the State, including \$2.5 million for services at The Prince Charles and Princess Alexandra Hospitals.

**Wendy Edmond MP**  
Minister for Health

## Investing for a Healthy Future

This Budget represents a significant investment in a healthy future for Queenslanders and a sustainable, quality focussed and safe health care system, reinforcing the sound foundation on which the Government's vision for health is being built.

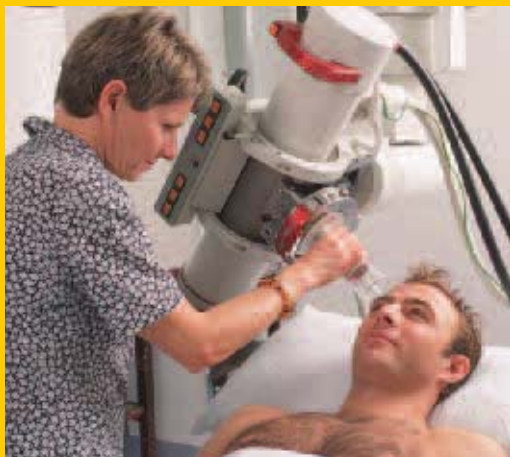
In 2003-04 funding will be directed towards four priority areas that will strengthen the ability of the system to meet health needs in Queensland.

### • Investing in Quality Services

This budget addresses the increasing cost of providing specialist clinical services and the pressure from high population growth.

- An extra \$3 million for Blood and Blood Products to manage the increasing costs of providing a sufficient and safe supply for treatment of injury and disease.
- a \$4.2 million package to enhance rehabilitation services across the State, including \$0.5 million for a dedicated rehabilitation unit at the Cairns Base Hospital.

*To meet growing demand our health system requires continuous development of new models of health care and a commitment to ongoing improvements in quality, safety and efficient delivery of health care services.*



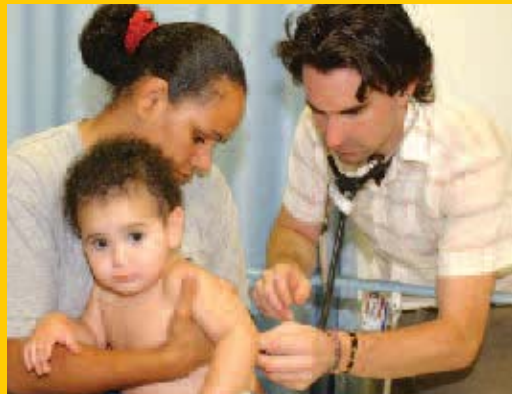
- An extra \$8.4 million for enhanced Mental Health services across the State, including:
  - \$2 million for 40 new community mental health positions across the State commencing in 2003-04 to manage the increasing demands on mental health services.
  - Increased funding of \$3 million will meet the full year-effect funding for 77 new community mental health positions which commenced in 2002-03.
  - \$0.54 million to improve staffing levels in the high dependency units at the Nambour and The Prince Charles Hospitals to ensure the safe management of highly disturbed patients.
  - \$0.39 million to staff the 10 bed psychogeriatric unit currently under construction at the Townsville Hospital, and \$1.2 million to manage enhanced inpatient capacity at the Princess Alexandra Hospital acute inpatient unit.
- \$5 million extra for oral health services, maintaining Queensland's position of providing the most comprehensive public oral health services in Australia.
- \$2.2 million allocation to emergency departments across the State to help manage existing demand pressures.

### • Healthy Communities

Providing patient-focused and integrated care to people in the community is a key challenge for the Queensland public health system. This budget invests in a number of areas to support people in the community. It recognises the significant role of our non-government partners and enhances our capacity to support a wider perspective on health.

- Home and Community Care Program (HACC) – increased funding to a minimum of \$7.5 million brings total funds for this program to approximately \$224 million in 2003-04. Additional funding of \$1.2 million will assist non-government organisations to meet increasing costs of service delivery, while caring for people in their own home.
- An extra \$1.5 million is allocated in this budget toward the increasing costs of medical aids provided by the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme.
- \$0.25 million allocated in 2003-04, with \$0.1 million recurrent funding from 2004-05 to 2006-07, to continue the private-government partnership to reduce the threat from marine stingers along the State's tropical coast.
- \$2.7 million is allocated in 2003-04 to continue the Drug Court pilot program in South-East Queensland and expand the pilot to North Queensland.
- An additional \$1 million in 2003-04 to enhance promotion of healthy weight, nutrition and physical activity to prevent obesity, with a particular focus on children.
- Funding for two specialised officers to conduct surveillance and investigation of cigarette sales to children.
- \$1.4 million has been allocated to continue a pilot program through Health Promotion Queensland aimed at promoting resilience in children and preventing risk-taking behaviours such as smoking, self-harm, alcohol and drug-taking.

*Queensland Health aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders by implementing targeted health strategies which offer significant health improvement opportunities.*



- Implementation of a new passive smoking public education campaign targeting parents that smoke around young children.
- \$0.6 million for a specialised project addressing smoking by young women.

### • World-Class Infrastructure

While the dedicated \$2.8 billion 10-year capital works program concludes this year, the Government will continue to invest heavily in the capital infrastructure required to deliver a world-class health service in the 21st century.

- \$2 million allocated recurrently to support the development of Queensland HealthLinks, a new patient information system which will promote patient-focused and integrated care. In addition, \$29.8 million in capital funding is allocated to commence the roll-out of replacement clinical and patient administration systems.
- Community Health Services commencing development in 2003-04 include the Nundah Community Health Centre at a cost of \$5.9 million and Rosemount Community Health Centre at a cost of \$1.4 million.

*Queensland Health is strengthening its health service delivery by building facilities that improve access to high quality services, provide more flexible models of care, utilise new technologies and cater for future demand.*



- Work will continue on the redevelopment of the North-West Community Health Centre at Keperra at a cost of \$4.7 million, and the Townsville Community Health Centres on the North Ward and Kirwan sites at an estimated total cost of \$8.7 million.
- Redevelopment of five primary health facilities in the Torres Strait has commenced at Mabuag, Mua and Iama Islands and will continue in the following years at Warraber and Darnley Islands at an estimated total project cost of \$11.2 million.
- The \$120 million State Government Residential Aged Care Facilities rebuilding program will continue, with approximately \$29 million to be spent in 2003-04. Planning and/or design stages will be undertaken on facilities at Dalby, Roma, Warwick and Wondai. Construction will occur at the Redland, Redcliffe, Maryborough, Sandgate-Eventide and Townsville residential aged care facilities.
- Work will continue on redevelopment projects with:
  - \$11.3 million for Ayr Hospital
  - \$16 million for Innisfail Hospital
  - \$5.5 million for Gympie Hospital
  - \$1.8 million upgrade of the Specialist Outpatients area at the Mackay Hospital
  - \$1 million refurbishment at Atherton Hospital
  - \$250,000 for the relocation of birthing suites at Bundaberg
  - \$200,000 refurbishment at the Winton Hospital.

### • People

The Government values Queensland's world class health workforce. More than 60 percent of Health expenditure is allocated to attract, retain and develop a dynamic workforce.

- An increase of \$175 million in 2003-04 to meet additional employee costs including new enterprise bargaining agreements and awards for nursing, non-nursing and visiting medical staff.
- \$0.33 million to support clinical career pathways for allied health professionals, as part of continued implementation of the findings of the Allied Health Taskforce.
- \$2 million to upgrade staff accommodation in rural areas. In addition to this, the \$8 million initiative to upgrade staff accommodation is progressing, with works in Bundaberg, Bowen, Mackay, Mt Isa and South Burnett to be completed in 2003-04.
- Additional funding of \$0.53 million in 2003-04 will enhance nursing and administrative support in the emergency department at the Caloundra Hospital.
- \$0.48 million will enable the Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service (ABIOS) based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital to continue working with communities across Queensland, including Charleville, Cherbourg and Murgon, Wide Bay and Mount Isa, to support patients with brain injury and their families.

*Queensland Health uses cutting-edge technology to train health care professionals and upgrade their skills in surgical techniques, health care improvement, management, leadership and communication.*



- Increased funding of \$0.25 million in 2003-04 will further progress Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care initiatives, including recruitment of an Indigenous health worker and several Indigenous child health workers in the Northern Peninsula area.



**Queensland  
Government**

**State Budget 2003-04**

Ministers Office contact details

Phone: 07 3234 1191 Fax: 07 3229 4731

[www.budget.qld.gov.au](http://www.budget.qld.gov.au)