

# Frequently asked questions

The *Queensland Statewide Health Services Plan* (the Plan) was released in March 2007. This fact sheet contains a list of frequently asked questions about the Plan.

## What is the purpose of the Plan?

The Plan provides a framework to improve health services for all Queenslanders. It details major reforms across the entire health sector and will guide the way that health services are developed and delivered in Queensland over the next five years.

## Who is the Plan for?

The Plan is for all health service providers across Queensland, not just Queensland Health. A key focus of the reforms will be to improve networks between the public sector, private sector, non-government organisations, other key agencies and departments and the broader community.

## What information is contained in the Plan?

The Plan details some of the unique challenges Queensland faces in delivering health care, including the ageing and diversity of our population, our increasing population, the uneven distribution of people throughout the State and our changing patterns of health needs. To meet these challenges, Queensland's health care providers will need to change the way services are delivered in line with existing and emerging best practice. Accordingly, the Plan focuses on two key reform areas:

### 1. *Improving access to safe and sustainable health services.*

It is not possible to provide all types of services in every location due to a range of factors. These include an insufficient number of patients for staff to maintain their skills, global workforce shortages, difficulty recruiting staff in some areas and the increasing cost of certain technologies. Balancing these factors, this Plan contains a range of reforms designed to enable all Queenslanders to access safe and sustainable health services.

### 2. *Better meeting people's needs across the health continuum.*

The Plan focuses on promoting good health and healthy lifestyle choices, preventing illness and providing high quality, timely health services in the most appropriate settings.

The Plan also contains reform strategies for funding, information and its use, workforce and infrastructure and assets.

## How was the Plan developed?

The Plan was developed in consultation with a broad range of clinicians, health service practitioners and providers, peak bodies and other government departments. Further consultation around how the Plan will be implemented will occur during the development of Area Health Services Plans and enabling plans for information, infrastructure and assets, workforce and funding.

## How does the Plan link to the Health Action Plan?

The *Action Plan: Building a better health service for Queensland*, released in October 2005, contained short to medium term reform strategies primarily for health services delivered by Queensland Health. Many of these reforms have been completed. The *Queensland Statewide Health Services Plan* builds on those reforms by providing medium to longer term strategies to improve health services across the entire public and private health sector.

## Frequently asked questions

### How will the Plan be implemented?

The Plan describes the broad, strategic directions for reform. Area Health Services Plans are currently under development and are expected to be complete by December 2007. These Area plans will provide detail on how the reforms outlined in the *Queensland Statewide Health Services Plan* will be enacted at the local level. The asset strategic plan, information management strategic plan, people plan and funding plans are also under development. These enabling plans will support the reforms identified in the Plan.

Additionally, statewide service plans will be developed for designated statewide and superspecialty services and service areas (such as subacute care, renal services and intensive care services) where there is a discernable benefit in conducting service planning across the state (e.g. in service areas experiencing unsustainable demand pressures under current models of care).

### What resources are available to implement the Plan?

Significant financial investment was committed by the Queensland Government when the Health Action Plan was released in 2005. This provided the initial investment for some strategies being implemented under the Plan.

The Plan will be supported by Queensland Health's New Funding Model, which will be implemented from July 2007. The New Funding Model comprises two tiers. The top tier of the model will guide the equitable allocation of funds to Area Health Services based on the health needs of their respective populations. The second tier of the model enables greater transparency and responsiveness in funding and budgeting which supports greater devolution in decision making. Whilst it is likely that there will be further budget requirements throughout the life of the Plan to implement reforms, the intent of the Plan is to guide investment at the Area Health Service and District Health Service levels.

However, as this is a plan for the whole health sector, not just Queensland Health, it is anticipated that other service providers will also need to identify how the services they provide will change and what investments will be required by them to support those changes and their implementation.

Therefore, the statewide and local investments arising from the Plan will be funded through a combination of submissions under State Budget processes, funding contributions from other government and non-government sectors and targeted investment from the Area Health Services and District Health Services under the New Funding Model.

### When will I start seeing changes as a result of the Plan?

A number of the reform strategies and initiatives contained in the Plan are already underway. Other strategies will be implemented throughout the five year life of the Plan.

### How can I become involved?

Throughout 2007 there will be opportunity for you to have input into the local planning for health services. This input will be considered when creating Area Health Services Plans.

*For more information on the Area Health Services Plans contact:*

- **Northern Area Health Service**  
Donna Richmond on 4019 6413
- **Central Area Health Service**  
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- **Southern Area Health Service**  
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### Where can I find more information about the Statewide Health Services Plan?

Explanatory notes have been developed to provide you with further detail on the aims and actions contained within the Plan. Both documents are available on Queensland Health's intranet site at <http://qhps.health.qld.gov.au/pcb/home.htm> and on the internet at [www.health.qld.gov.au/publications/corporate/stateplan2007/SHSP2007.pdf](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/publications/corporate/stateplan2007/SHSP2007.pdf).

Alternatively, please email [SHSP@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:SHSP@health.qld.gov.au) or phone **3234 1172**.