



Children's health

Leading life-changing care for children and young people—for a healthier tomorrow.

Queensland Health

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Children's health

Children's Health Queensland (CHQ) is a specialist statewide hospital and health service (HHS) dedicated to caring for children and young people from across Queensland and northern New South Wales.

A leader in paediatric healthcare, education and research, CHQ delivers a full range of clinical services, tertiary level care and health promotion programs via an integrated network including:

- Queenslan Children's Hospital (QCH)
- Child and Youth Community Health Service
- Child and Youth Mental Health Service
- statewide services and programs, including specialist outreach and telehealth services
- partnerships with other HHSs and non-government organisations.

CHQ provides services from key locations in the Brisbane metropolitan area, and works with the 15 other Queensland Health rural and regional HHSs. CHQ also works with non-government organisations and charity partners in Queensland to deliver an integrated network of healthcare services and support across the state. CHQ is the primary provider of paediatric training and education for healthcare professionals in Queensland.

CHQ operates the Children's Advice and Transport Coordination Hub (CATCH) as part of a statewide clinical advice and transport coordination network for children across Queensland. CATCH facilitates inter-hospital transfers as required where patients will receive the appropriate level of hospital care. CATCH uses telehealth and video conferencing technology to link all parties involved in inter-hospital transfers, including referring and accepting medical teams, emergency department physicians, and bed management staff. This improves access to clinical advice during diagnosis and streamlines the transfer process for patients and HHSs.



Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) is responsible for providing general paediatric health services to children and young people in the greater Brisbane metropolitan area, as well as tertiary-level care for the state's sickest and most seriously injured children.

The QCH has become the first paediatric hospital in Australasia to be awarded Level 1 Major Trauma Service status by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS).

Queensland's paediatric clinical capabilities

Queensland Paediatric Rehabilitation Service

The Queensland Paediatric Rehabilitation Service (QPRS) provides coordinated, family focused rehabilitation, health assessments and interventions for children and adolescents with a range of disabilities resulting from injury, illness or disease. The multidisciplinary team delivers services at the QCH and works with hub partners across Queensland.

The team cares for children and adolescents with:

- acquired neurological injury or illness e.g. brain injury
- spinal cord dysfunction
- cerebral palsy and similar conditions
- limb difference and amputation
- rare complex conditions (e.g. achondroplasia) for developmental guidance.



72,094

emergency presentations



40,423

hospital admissions



257

hospital in the home patients



229,436

outpatient appointments



3,525

telehealth appointments



53,221

child health well baby appointments

Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service Annual Report 2017-18

Queensland's paediatric clinical capabilities



Queensland Children's Motion Analysis Service

The Queensland Children's Motion Analysis Service (QCMAS), provides state-of-the-art, assessments of gait (walking) and energy expenditure to improve gait performance, reduce pain while walking and increase efficiency. QCMAS provides care for children and young people with:

- Cerebral palsy
- Spina bifida
- traumatic and other acquired brain injuries
- spinal cord injury or disease
- amputations and limb deficiency
- other complex low incidence conditions.

Queensland Specialist Immunisation Service

The Queensland Specialist Immunisation Service (QSIS) provides Queensland with its first dedicated statewide service dealing with complex clinical vaccination issues for parents, children and clinicians. QSIS offers multidisciplinary specialist immunisation services to support safe vaccination of children with complex medical conditions. It also provides services to children with an increased risk of vaccine preventable disease, experience adverse events following immunisation, or who have not received recommended vaccines through existing community services.

Queensland Paediatric Immunology and Allergy Service

The Queensland Paediatric Immunology and Allergy Service provides consultation, assessment and management services for children with immune disorders, autoimmune diseases, mastocytosis, hereditary angioedema and immunosuppressive therapy; and allergic disorders including food allergy, anaphylaxis, severe atopic dermatitis, severe allergic rhinitis and drug allergies. Almost 60 per cent of presentations are related to food challenges.



Cystic Fibrosis Service

The Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Service is the largest paediatric CF clinic in Australia and provides comprehensive specialist care for all children diagnosed with CF across Queensland and Northern New South Wales. Presently, the Service cares for around 450 children and adolescents from birth until age 18 years. Every year around 20 newly diagnosed babies are referred from Queensland, interstate and overseas. A dedicated multidisciplinary CF team provides inpatient, outpatient and community liaison services. Outreach services are provided to regional hospitals to help deliver CF care closer to home and the Service is actively involved in the education and training of health professionals who care for children with CF from around the state. The Service's research unit is involved in national and international clinical trials of new CF therapies.

Oncology programs

The Oncology Services group provides diagnosis and treatment services for children and adolescents (aged 0-18) with cancer, including comprehensive multidisciplinary and psychosocial support for patients and their families and shared-care plans for regional hospitals. The group is an active member of national and international collaborative research groups, including the Children's Oncology Group (COG), the world's largest collaborative organisation devoted exclusively to childhood and adolescent cancer treatment and research. The Oncology Services group partners with pharmaceutical companies to conduct clinical trials for childhood cancer and haematology disorders. It has almost 50 clinical trials open to patient enrolment and more than 40 studies in active follow-up (as at June 2017).



Helping overweight and obese children

CHQ has established paediatric weight management clinics to address rising rates of childhood obesity.

The referral criteria ensure overweight children get the help they need sooner, before they progress to becoming obese. Approximately 80 patients a month access these services.

Project ECHO®

In 2017, CHQ established a Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) Hub site at QCH to train general practitioners (GPs) and other healthcare providers in the management of chronic and complex paediatric conditions. This collaborative education model of medical, clinical and care management aims to improve access to specialty care for children living in rural and under-served communities. CHQ is the only organisation authorised to employ the ECHO model in the care of children and young people in Australia. CHQ's Project ECHO® Hub offers courses in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), childhood overweight and obesity, foot anomalies, Parent Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS), supporting refugee kids and persistent pain.

Queensland Poisons Information Centre

The Queensland Poisons Information Centre provides the general public and health professionals with prompt, up-to-date and evidence-based clinical information and advice to assist in the management of poisonings and suspected poisonings.

The centre fielded 34,021 calls in 2016–17. Approximately 90 per cent of calls resulted in management of the incident at home, preventing unnecessary visits to doctors and hospitals.

Statewide Simulation Training on Resuscitation for Kids program

The Simulation Training on Resuscitation for Kids (SToRK) program provides online, face-to-face and in-service training packages for clinicians across Queensland on paediatric emergency, basic and advanced life support. In 2016–17, the Recognition and Management of the Deteriorating Paediatric Patient inter-professional training course was delivered across all 16 HHSs in Queensland.

Aimed at improving the recognition of unwell children and the delivery of the early phases of their care, the course was completed by 4,660 participants (334 medical, 4,079 nursing, 47 others) in 64 hospitals throughout Queensland by 30 June 2017. A further 10,899 completed the core skills e-learning course, with 7,039 completing the advanced skills e-learning course.

eHealth

The QCH rolled out the integrated electronic Medical Record (ieMR) program in 2016–17. Progress towards a fully integrated ieMR is improving collaboration with clinicians and partners, and is central to the CHQ digital engagement strategy.



Queensland's paediatric research capabilities

Centre for Children's Health Research

The Centre for Children's Health Research (CCHR) is Queensland's first facility for research into child and adolescent health. CCHR is a partnership between CHQ, The University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology, working in collaboration with the Translational Research Institute.

CCHR is an integrated hub of specialist knowledge dedicated to improving the health of children, and facilitating best opportunities for collaborative research projects.

Areas of expertise include:

- Oncology
- Respiratory medicine
- Infectious diseases
- Paediatric critical care
- Cardiology
- Burns and trauma
- Diabetes and endocrinology
- Mental health
- Rehabilitation
- Neurodevelopmental disorders

In 2017-2018, researchers at CHQ had 99 active oncology trials, were participating in 62 international clinical trial groups, secured \$13 million in competitive peer-reviewed grant funding and had 65 nurse-led critical care research projects (source – CHQ 2017-18 Annual Report)

Burns program

The Centre for Children's Burns and Trauma Research aims to prevent children from sustaining traumatic injuries such as burns and to provide the best evidence-based treatment for children with traumatic injuries.

Projects include:

- A national burn prevention campaign that used smartphone app technology to educate the public on burn prevention and burn first-aid treatment.
- Burn depth prediction and burn injury pathology to provide evidence for burn prevention legislation and cases of intentional injury.

Partner with us

Queensland Health, through the Health Innovation, Investment and Research Office, is looking for opportunities to collaborate with government agencies, entrepreneurs, industry and research institutions to expand our vibrant health sector to improve the wellbeing and healthcare of Queenslanders.

Website:

www.health.qld.gov.au/hiiro

Email:

HIIRO@health.qld.gov.au

Phone:

+61 7 3708 5071

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HIIRO

Health Innovation, Investment
and Research Office

ADDRESS

Level 13, 33 Charlotte Street,
Brisbane, QLD 4000

WEBSITE

health.qld.gov.au/hiiro

PHONE

+61 7 3708 5071