Pathology Services

Current Service Provision
Pathology services are provided for SCHHS by Pathology Queensland, part of the Health Service Support Agency (HSSA) within QH. The group coordinating laboratory for the Gympie, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Caloundra and Kingaroy Laboratories is located at NGH.

Pathology Queensland - Nambour is a level 5 facility providing services to NGH, CHS, MSMH, GHS and community health centres/facilities, sexual health, ATODS, Nambour community adult mental health, Blackall Terrace (HIV/AIDS), BreastScreen Queensland, and the Nambour diabetes clinic.

Pathology Queensland – Gympie is a level 3 facility providing a 7 day service in phlebotomy, haematology, transfusion and chemical pathology.

Pathology Queensland – Caloundra became a level 3 facility in 2012. It is a 7 day service with phlebotomy, haematology, transfusion, and chemical pathology.

Specialised pathology tests are referred to Pathology Queensland Central Laboratory located at RBWH.

Historical Activity
In 10/11 a total of 620,323 pathology services were delivered in the SCHHS. This has increased by 36% since 06/07. In 10/11, 40% of pathology activity was chemical pathology, with a further 27% being haematology.

In 10/11, 73% of all pathology requests were lodged with NGH.

Projected Demand
The Pathology Queensland Service Strategy 2010-2015 identifies a need to respond to a number of significant external and service challenges resulting from increased demand for services and State and Federal reforms. Details of Pathology Queensland funding under the new health reforms while not known at present are presumed to be in line with a nationally efficient price based on better management of demand and increased productivity within existing resources.

Demand projections were not available at the time.

Service Transition Priorities 2012 – 2016
2012-2014
- Increase use of point of care technology where possible e.g ED
- Increase involvement in research and education to respond to opportunities for change in how ‘business’ is conducted.
- Increase efficiency in pathology testing through education and collaboration with senior clinicians.
- Ensure consistency and quality related to the ordering of tests by working with clinical champions.

2014-2016
- Develop molecular testing as a key service for the future.
- Develop implementation plan for increasing service capability prior to SCUH opening.
- Plan for the closure of the CHS service in 2016 and services to be provided at the SCUH.
- Identify any increase in service needs for MSMH and implement a strategy to manage this increase effectively.
- Improve IT access to the test request process and results for external partners.
- Explore options for automation in laboratories - in particular the front end of the process.

Future Service Configurations
2012-2016
Maintain NGH at level 5, GHS at level 3 and CHS at level 3.

Beyond 2016/17

Future Clinical Service Capability Levels

<table>
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<th>Facility</th>
<th>16/17</th>
<th>21/22</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>MSMH</td>
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* courier pick up

The pathology service will also support a hospital and forensic pathology autopsy service provided from the SCUH Mortuary. NGH and GHS will retain their mortuaries but not conduct any autopsies.

SCUH will be supported by level 6 Pathology Queensland services located at RBWH.