

Another AMAQ Initiative



# Public Hospital System REPORT CARD

*Questionnaire for Hospital Doctors*



*Return Date: 15th September 2000*

# Public Hospital System Report Card



30 August 2000

Dear Doctor

## AMAQ SURVEY – STATUS OF PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM IN QUEENSLAND

Your cooperation in completing this survey is appreciated. Wherever possible, every effort has been made to simplify its completion.

### 1. Hospital and District

1.1 Name of hospital to which this response refers:- .....  
(NB: If you are responding for more than one hospital would you mind copying this return and completing a separate return for each hospital)

1.2 Name of Area Health District .....

### 2. Staffing Levels

2.1 What are the current medical staffing levels at your hospital? (Please circle one code for your answer.)

- Severe staff shortages 1
- 2
- Adequate staff levels 3
- 4
- Surplus staff available 5

2.2 Are there any areas of specialty where there is a crisis situation (such as very long waiting lists, lack of specialist staff, inadequate facilities or equipment) or, if not a crisis, a cause for concern?

- No 2 (Go to 2.3)
- Yes 1 ... If "YES" please list the specialities concerned.

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2.3 Do you have sufficient medical officers to cover:-

	Yes	No
(a) Medical requirements?	1	2
(b) Relief requirements	1	2

**3. Funding and Service Reductions**

3.1 Over the previous two (2) years, have there been any:-

(a) Bed closures Yes 1 No 2

If "YES" how many beds closed in the last 2 years? .....

(b) Ward closures Yes 1 No 2

If "YES" how many wards permanently closed in the last 2 years? .....

If "YES" how many wards temporarily closed in the last 2 years? .....

Average duration of temporary closure of wards? .....

3.2 Have there been staff cuts at your hospital in the last 2 years?

No 2 (Go to 3.3)

Yes 1 ... If "YES" by what percentage have the following staff been cut over the last 2 years:-

Medical practitioners .....%

Nursing staff ..... %

Ancillary staff ..... %

Please briefly elaborate:-

.....  
 .....  
 .....

3.3 Have there been staff reductions in the last 2 years from:-

	Yes	No
(a) Natural attrition and vacant positions not filled?	1	2
(b) Staff on holiday not replaced?	1	2
(c) Staff shift length reduced?	1	2

3.4 Have there been funding cuts in the last 2 years at your hospital?

No 2 (Go to 3.6)

Yes 1 ... If "YES" what have been the approximate percentage level of cuts in the last 2 years for:

Your specialisation or area? ..... %

The hospital budget as a whole? ..... %

3.5 (a) What specific services were affected and what was the percentage by which capabilities were reduced?

<b>Service Affected</b>	<b>Percentage Capacity Reduction</b>
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.....%

.....%

.....%

.....%

(b) Are there any under funded positions or services at your hospital?

No 2

Yes 1 ... If "YES" which positions or services are under funded?

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.....  
.....

(c) What is the approximate size of the funding shortfall at your hospital? (Please circle one code for your answer.)

- None 1
- 1 - 5% 2
- 6 - 10% 3
- 11 - 20% 4
- 21 - 30% 5
- 31 - 40% 6
- 41 - 50% 7
- Over 50% 8

**(Go to 3.7)**

3.6 If funding cuts have not occurred, is your hospital:

	Yes	No
(a) Struggling to stay within budget?	1	2
(b) Likely to experience a budget overrun	1	2

3.7 Has your hospital experienced any of these problems in the last 2 years:

	Yes	No
(a) New funds budgeted for other purposes have been diverted to previous unfunded positions/services?	1	2
(b) Hospital has experienced cuts in operating theatre (O/T) services?	1	2
(c) The hospital has had cuts in outpatients department (OPD) services?	1	2
(d) Has there been insufficient funding to maintain patient care at the new location, where there have been policies or cut backs such as flow-reversals?	1	2

3.8 (a) If you answered "YES" to 3.7 (a) to (d), have your patients been disadvantaged as a result of these arrangements? (Please circle one code for your answer.)

- A great deal 1
- Some impact 2
- Slight impact 3
- No impact 4

(b) If there has been an impact, please give examples of the effects on your patients of these arrangements.

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3.9 Over the past 12 months, did you have any close downs over holiday periods?

No 2 (Go to 3.10)

Yes 1 ... If "YES", what is the total number of weeks of closures for the year?..... weeks

3.10 Has your hospital suffered any "close downs" or staff reductions due to budget over-runs?

Yes 1

No 2

Close downs not possible in your hospital 3

3.11 Have budget over-runs been dealt with by any other means apart from close down or staff reductions?

No 2 (Go to 3.12)

Yes 1 ... If "YES" – what strategies have been utilised in your hospital to deal with these over-runs?

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3.12 Do you have "Low Activity Days" at your hospital?

No 2

Low activity days not possible in your hospital 3

Yes 1 ... If "YES" how many per month in theatres? ..... days

3.13 Do you have any established medical positions unfilled at your hospital?

No 2

Yes 1 ... If "YES" - please give details of the specialty/ies

Position	No. of Vacancies
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

**4. Overall Impact on Your Hospital**

4.1 Over the last 2 years, how would you describe the level of medical staff morale in your hospital?

- Very low 1
- Low 2
- Acceptable 3
- High 4
- Very high 5

4.2 Does your hospital have any specific areas of concern in relation to lack of funding?

No 2 (Go to 4.3)

Yes 1 ... If "YES" please provide a brief explanation – for example, patient transfer or retrieval, supply of medical equipment etc.

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4.3 As a general statement, if your hospital has waiting lists, how would they be described? (Please circle one code for your answer.)

- Normal for a hospital of this size 1
- Acceptable in some specialties but unacceptable in others 2
- Unacceptable right across the board 3
- Not applicable to this hospital (for example, no OPD/OT) 4

4.4 Are there issues of particular concern relating to waiting lists? - e.g. patients could be put on an "unofficial" waiting list before they are added to the official waiting lists; very long waiting times might apply to access a specialist, followed by further long delays (while on the waiting list) to access the procedure

No 2 (Go to 4.5)

Yes 1 ... If "YES" please provide a brief outline of these problems

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4.5 (a) Do you believe there have been any adverse outcomes for patients (or doctors) as a result of the current state-wide funding crisis?

	Yes	No
Patients discharged prematurely	1	2
Patient coming to harm	1	2
Doctor coming to harm	1	2
Other		
(specify .....)	1	2

