



health matters



SMB22

Trial study for integrated services

A new community health centre in Brisbane is one of five pilot general practitioner-hospital integration demonstration sites opened as part of a nationwide assessment project.

The Brisbane South Centre for Health Service Integration is in Queensland Health's Annerley Road Community Health Centre in the Mater Community Services Building.

The centre is a collaboration of three stakeholders: Brisbane Inner South Division of General Practice, Mater Misericordiae Health Services Brisbane Ltd. (incorporating the Mater Centre for Integrated Health Care and General Practice and the Domiciliary Allied Health Acute Care and Rehabilitation Team, and Queensland Health (through Brisbane South Community Health Services).

From the Director-General Dr Steve Buckland

When 13 children a year in Queensland were drowning in backyard swimming pools there was outrage, and as a consequence, pool fences were made mandatory.

And yet, an average of 21 children under the age of four die each year in Queensland as a direct result of smoking in the home.

Another 3400 adults die each year in Queensland as a direct result of smoking. More than 30,000 hospital admissions in this state a year directly result from smoking.

At the heart of the proposed new smoking laws in Queensland is one single agenda: healthier people and communities.

The proposals are not about smokers or their rights.

They are about the 80 per cent of Queenslanders who do not smoke. They are about giving back the outdoors to the majority of Queenslanders who shouldn't have to be at risk from the undeniable dangers of tobacco smoke.

Queensland, and Queensland Health, has the opportunity to be national leaders in terms of our work for better health.

We also understand that as leaders we have a responsibility to continue a strong prevention campaign, and even stronger quit smoking initiatives to help those who genuinely want to be healthier.

Is it also about social reform? Undeniably, Queensland Health has a vested interest in preventing chronic disease in areas like Logan, for example, where the major causes of death, at much higher rates than the national average, are smoking, heart disease and obesity.

An estimated 9000 children are overweight or obese in the Logan area, while the rate of socioeconomic disadvantage in the area is almost 30 per cent compared with a state average of 20 per cent.

These are the people most at risk if we don't have a comprehensive approach to tobacco control.

Importantly, as part of the proposed changes, we will be calling for 200 volunteer Queensland Health staff to be trained to help monitor the new legislation.

I would hope that everyone, smokers and non-smokers, will see these proposed new laws for their real purpose – an unprecedented win for a healthier Queensland.



The primary aim is to use a collocation of these stakeholders to pilot four key interventions.

These include:

- two integrated clinical care projects, Falls Management and Prevention and a School Based Youth Health initiative
- integrated undergraduate and postgraduate education and training
- enhanced information management and information technology communication systems to aid integrated health care
- development of an appropriate governance framework to promote integrated health service delivery.

The aim is for successful pilot models to be transferable to other sites nationally.

The experiences and outcomes will aid future policy directions for a health system to better integrated delivery of care and improved health outcomes.