A timeline through the ages

40 Years of ACHS History

1974
1982
1977
1995
2014
2003
In 2014, the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards celebrated its ruby anniversary. Here we trace that journey.

In 1974, after years of discussion and many different proposals, ACHS opened for business with an agreement between existing professional Colleges and Societies, a vision for a set of standards, a donated office and lots of good intentions. This timeline traces the events that have impacted Australian health care and the ACHS, the products and services of the evolving organisation, and the people who made them happen. It records ongoing change (clinical, technological, legal and political) within the health sector. Faced at many times with uncertainty, throughout the timeline, there is evidence of dedicated people (both within and beyond ACHS) working to improve the quality of life for the Australian population, but particularly for their patients with due regard to the quality and costs of those services. In this context, it is interesting that these things continue to be the priorities around which the health sector sets its goals 40 years later.
**15th October 1970**

**West Gate Bridge collapse**

Two years into construction of the cable stayed bridge over the Yarra River, it collapsed. Thirty five tradesmen died, 18 were injured.

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**26th September 1973**

**Tumut Ponds bus crash**

18 SA pensioners killed and 21 injured when a tour bus plunge down a cliff into Tumut Ponds Dam, in the Snowy Mountains.

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**July 1972**

**A Starting Point - The Australian Hospital Standards Committee**

The Joint Steering Committee on Hospital Accreditation changed its name to the Australian Hospital Standards Committee in recognition of the principle that the accreditation process should place its emphasis on education and publicity relating to the achievements of desirable standards.

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**31st July 1972**

**Box Flat Colliery explosion**

Production of explosive gases is a known risk in coal mines. Seventeen miners were killed and 17 injured in Ipswich, Qld. After the explosion the mine closed and the tunnel's entrances were sealed.

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**Jan 1974 - 30th Jun 1980**

**Mr Errol Pickering, Executive Director**

"... I was expected to sell the concept of accreditation by an external organisation ... but fear gave me focus and you just get on with it. ..."

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**April 1974**

**Office space with AMA at RNSH**

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) had an office in the historic buildings of Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH). They provided room for ACHS.

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**June 1974**

**Principles of Quality Patient Care in Hospitals**

Developed by the Australian Hospital Standards Committee, this document outlined the philosophy and application of a program for monitoring hospital care standards.

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**1970**

**15th October 1970**

**West Gate Bridge collapse**

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24th Dec 1974 - 25th Dec 1974
Cyclone Tracy hits Darwin
It was the night before Christmas. For six hours from 10pm, the winds howled. The damage was overwhelming - 71 lives lost, 650 injured, 41,000 homeless, and 35,362 people evacuated, most by air. Darwin’s population was 42,000.

July 1974
Commonwealth Government grant
The Australian Hospital Standards Committee discovered that Dr Sidney Sax, Chair of the Hospitals and Health Services Commission, shared their vision to improve the quality of health services. He provided a grant of $25,000 to support further research into the development of a national accreditation program embracing public hospitals.

24th Dec 1975 - 25th Dec 1975
Fire at the Savoy Hotel, Kings Cross
On Christmas Eve 1975, the five-storey Savoy Hotel was packed with local workers and holiday makers. A fire began in the early morning and trapped people upstairs. Of the 60 guests in the hotel, 15 died and 25 were seriously injured.

5th January 1975
Tasman bridge disaster
The bulk ore carrier Lake Illawarra collided with the Tasman bridge. Seven crewmen died on the ship. Five people perished as their cars plummeted off the bridge.

February 1976
Accreditation Guide, 1st Edn

November 1974
First hospital accredited
Geelong Hospital in Victoria is surveyed and accredited against the Provisional Standards for Australian Hospitals.

November 1976
ACHS moves to Sydney CBD
The ACHS would move to offices at 35 Clarence St, sharing the space with the Australian Hospitals Association (AHA).

October 1974
Provisional Standards for Australian Hospitals
The first set of standards were 100 pages in length and prepared on green paper using a manual typewriter.

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Mr Selby K Steele, ACHS Chairman
“... My involvement with the ACHS was probably one of the most interesting, challenging and enjoyable phases of my professional career.”
18th January 1977
Granville train crash
The 6.10am commuter train from the Blue Mountains derailed under a bridge in Granville NSW. The bridge then collapsed onto the train - 83 died, many more injured.

March 1977
NSW acute hospitals join accreditation
Hornsby Hospital was the first NSW hospital accredited by ACHS.

June 1977
Broader involvement in ACHS governance
Seeking broader healthcare representation in ACHS governance, nominees for the ACHS Council were sought from medical, nursing and administrative organisations. A person to represent healthcare consumers was also sought.

Following extensive research and discussion, the Board decided to invite Dr David Benjafield, who was a Law Professor at the University of Sydney to represent consumers on the ACHS Council. He had extensive experience of the health system and was a parent of a long-term patient / consumer.

June 1978
Accreditation Guide 3rd edn
The 3rd edition of ‘the Guide’ was expanded for use in both acute care hospitals and extended care facilities.

October 1978
BIAS newsletter for surveyors
BIAS (Background Information for Accreditation Surveyors) commenced publication.

January 1979 - November 1980
Repatriation Hospitals accredited nationwide
In an agreement with the Departments of Veterans’ Affairs, ACHS surveyors travelled across the country to survey repatriation hospitals.

February 1978
A Guide to Clinical Review
Launched in partnership with Australian Medical Association and Australian Hospitals Association.

August 1978
First cochlear implant in a human patient
In August 1978, volunteer guinea pig, Rod Saunders, allowed surgeon Dr Graeme Clark to implant a prototype nerve stimulator in his left ear.

25th November 1978 - 26th November 1981
Prof Lionel L Wilson, ACHS Chairman
“We learnt as we went.”
February 1979

Peer Review Resource Centre established

The Peer Review Resource Centre was a government funded joint venture by ACHS and the Australian Medical Association.

March 1980

Utilisation Review Guide

The Guide resulted from a collaboration between a number of healthcare organisations. It would serve as a manual on the process of ‘Utilisation Review’.

23rd June 1980

Australia's first IVF baby

Louise Brown was the world’s first ‘test-tube baby’. Candice Reed was born in 1980 and during the next 30 years, around 85,000 babies were born using the same technology.

30th Jun 1980 - 1st Dec 1983

Mr Wayne Cahill, ACHS Executive Director

“There was a perception (in my time) that ACHS was larger than it really was, when it was essentially myself, a secretary and a part time project officer.”

20th Nov 1981 - 24th Nov 1983

Dr Ross B Holland, ACHS Chairman

“Looking back, if I had to sum up our achievements at that stage, I would say the [ACHS] probably humanised the healthcare system. We were an agent ... for that to change.”

29th Aug 1979 - 26th Feb 1981

Jamison Inquiry: efficiency and administration of hospitals

The inquiry was established under the Fraser government to respond to growing concern about the expansion of healthcare costs relative to Australia’s GDP.

September 1979

First NT hospital accredited

Casuarina Hospital in Darwin became the first hospital in the Territory to be accredited by ACHS.

March 1980

Australian Clinical Review

This was Australia’s peer review quality journal for health care.

May 1980

Stephen Duckett enquires into accreditation


February 1981

Accreditation Guide, 4th edn

The Guide was written so that it could be applied to hospitals and extended care facilities. The updated guide would emphasise patient safety, organisational evaluation and continuing education.

29th April 1981

Fire at Pacific Nursing Home

The death of 16 residents and injuries to 51 others in a fire at Sylvania Waters, NSW, at night, led to changes in regulations.
16th Feb 1983 - 18th Feb 1983

Ash Wednesday - Vic, SA

Accidents and arson started the fires, but they were fanned by gale force winds in a low humidity environment.

June 1983

The Key Factors

An evaluation of recommendations made to 94 public and private hospitals undergoing an ACHS Accreditation survey in the previous 9 months.

25th Nov 1983 - 28th Nov 1985

Dr Barry R Catchlove, ACHS Chairman

“[A] big issue was how punitive to be in terms of accreditation and, particularly, non accreditation.”

April 1984

NSW hospital doctors’ dispute

Changes to NSW legislation threatened physicians’ independence. Among a number of doctors who threatened to resign was cardiac surgeon, Mr Victor Chang.

June 1985

First Tasmanian hospital accredited

Royal Hobart Hospital was the first Tasmanian public hospital to meet ACHS accreditation standards in 1985.

15th February 1982

First ACT hospital accredited

Calvary Hospital was accredited in February 1982, the first hospital in the ACT to receive accreditation.

June 1983

The Accradiator newsletter launched

ACHS newsletter for all stakeholders was named ‘The Accradiator’.

Feb 1984 - Jun 1987

Ms Ann Porcino, Executive Director

“I think the organisation was at a crossroads when I was appointed. Its relevance was being heavily challenged ... Anytime you thought about doing something bold, there was this financial constraint.”

October 1984

Decade Review Conference

Accreditation: A Decade of Progress, 1974-1984 was held in Sydney by ACHS and opened by Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Neal Blewett.
22nd Nov 1985 - 23rd Nov 1989

**Mr Brian Collopy, ACHS Chairman**

“Clearly we had to strengthen the clinical component of accreditation. If you are going to evaluate the effectiveness of a hospital, you must have some way of determining whether these compromised people have improved .. Did they walk out, go out in an ambulance or did they not go out?”

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**January 1987**

**Education and Resource Unit established**

The ACHS Education and Resource Unit was created in 1987 during a period of significant expansion in education activities.

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**Feb 1987 - Nov 1988**

**Sponsorship**

During 1988, many of ACHS’ publishing activities and events could not have been achieved without support from commercial organisations.

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**Jun 1987 - Jun 1993**

**Dr David Darby, ACHS Chief Executive**

Dr Darby joined the ACHS from Bayer Australia. He had a strong background in marketing and management. He also had links to UNSW and NSW Institute of Technology.

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**July 1988**

**Same acronym, new name**

Reflecting its broadening constituency, ACHS, changed from Australian Council on Hospital Standards to Australian Council on Healthcare Standards.

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**21st November 1986**

**Australia signs Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion**

The Charter defined health promotion and had clear goals for enabling all people to take responsibility for their own health.

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**January 1987**

**Standards for Day Procedure Facilities**

A Commonwealth Department of Health Grant supported the development of this additional set of ACHS standards.

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**1st Jan 1987 - 24th Dec 1988**

**Accreditation Guides, 5th and 6th edns**

As skills in standards development grew, the standards were written to be flexible enough to be applied to large and small healthcare organisations from both the public and private sectors.

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**June 1987**

**ACHS relocates to Zetland**

ACHS relocated to larger, more comfortable offices in the renovated nurses home in the grounds of Royal South Sydney Hospital, Zetland.

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**14th July 1987**

**AIDS and the Grim Reaper advertisement**

HIV incidence in Australia rose rapidly in the early to mid-1980s from around 30 cases per year in 1981 to a peak of around 3,300 cases in 1984.
Sept 1988

**Introduction of the Care Evaluation Program (CEP)**

The most significant achievement during this period was the introduction of the Care Evaluation Program. The goal behind this program was to facilitate the development of objective clinical indicators that reflect the process and outcomes of patient care.

Mar 1989

**ACHS hosts international conference**

The Sixth International Symposium on Quality Assurance in Healthcare was held in Melbourne and attended by 350 health professionals.

November 1989

**1989 airline pilots’ dispute**

The strike by pilots in 1989 during which a large number of pilots resigned devastated Australian tourism. It also created enormous challenges for ACHS in scheduling and transporting surveyors to hospitals.

28th December 1989

**Earthquake in Newcastle, NSW**

Historic buildings were damaged, as were 35,000 homes leaving 1,000 people displaced. Of the 13 people who died, 12 were trapped in buildings. Around 160 people were injured.

4th July 1991

**Murder of cardiac surgeon, Victor Chang**

It was an extortion attempt. In Mosman, his Mercedes was clipped by another vehicle. A few minutes later he was dead.


**Slattery inquiry into deep sleep therapy**

Chelmsford Private Hospital in Pennant Hills provided Deep Sleep Therapy to patients with a range of psychiatric problems - 24 died.

20th Oct 1989 - 22nd Dec 1989

**Pacific Highway bus crashes**

On 20 October 1989 a head-on collision between a tourist coach and a semi-trailer occurred near Grafton. 21 died and 22 were injured. On 22 December two months later, two tourist buses collide head-on near Kempsey. 35 lives lost, with 41 injured.

24th Nov 1989 - 26th Nov 1992

**Dr Warwick Ruscoe, ACHS Chairman**

"... The advances we were making were not being matched by the infrastructure. Great problem."

3rd Feb 1991

**Clinical Indicators – Hospital-Wide Medical Indicators, V1**

'Clinical Indicators', A Users' Manual, Hospital-wide Medical Indicators 1991 was published in July 1991.

28th February 1991

**Review of ACHS as an organisation**

ACHS’s first organisational review was undertaken by Deloitte Ross Tamatsu.
1992

4th January 1992

**Bus crash - Tamworth NSW**

A Pioneer bus carrying two drivers and 52 passengers crashed into a bridge 15 km west of Tamworth.

October 1992

**Townsville General Hospital - first Qld public hospital accredited**

At the time that it gained three year accreditation, Townsville General was a 380-bed, tertiary referral hospital.


**Mrs Patricia Heath, ACHS President**

“The launch of the Evaluation Quality Improvement Program (EQuIP) was a major turning point for ACHS. It gave us back our credibility, our relevance.”

June 1994

**ACHS launches its new logo**


September 1994

**Journal of Quality in Clinical Practice (JQCP) launched**

The new journal would be a collaboration between ACHS and the Australian Medical Association. It would replace the Australian Clinical Review.

March 1995

**EQuIP pilot**

Pilot of the draft 1st edition EQuIP standards is undertaken by 20 organisations.

June 1993 - Nov 1994

**Dr Robert Reznik, ACHS Chief Executive**

“I set out to think of a good set of principles that might encompass some of the changes that would lead to a different ACHS for the next, I envisaged, 10 to 20 years.”

February 1995

**'Charter for Change’**

ACHS recognises that its accreditation program should integrate Quality Improvement in day-to-day organisational systems and processes. New thinking is needed. Dr Marjorie Pawsey joins ACHS to guide the change.

July 1992

**Medical Clinical Indicators – Progress and Prospects Seminar**

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Dale Schumacher, Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, USA.

November 1992

**Flu antiviral discovered at CSIRO**

Zanamivir was discovered in 1989 by scientists led by Peter Colman and Joseph Varghese at the CSIRO, in collaboration with Mark von Itzstein’s team at the Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University, the Australian National University and scientists at Glaxo, UK. Zanamivir was the first of the neuraminidase inhibitors.

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June 1995

ACHS moves back to the city

ACHS negotiates favourable rates on office space in Phillip Street, Sydney.

January 1996

The Birth of the Electronic Assessment Tool (EAT)

The ACHS Electronic Assessment Tool (EAT) is a software application used by ACHS member organisations to capture the quality initiatives and progress against the ACHS accreditation standards.

June 1996

Launch of EQuIP

More than 500 people attended the launch and seminar. Dr Michael Wooldridge MP launched the program.

May 1997

ACHS surveyed by international peers

This was one of the earliest style surveys by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua). The review panel included CEOs from accreditation agencies in Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

January 1998

EAT v2

Key updates to the original application were underway for the Electronic Assessment Tool.


Dr Denis Smith, ACHS Chief Executive Officer

“When I got on board, yes, I found this fantastic model but it had no wheels!”

28th April 1996

Port Arthur massacre

In 1996, one of Tasmania’s most popular tourist destinations became the site of a massacre. A solo gunman with an automatic weapon killed 35 and injured 22.

29th Nov 1996 - 27th Nov 1997

Mr Darryl Maytom, ACHS President

“I think we were faced with three significant challenges when I was elected... The first was to restructure the organisation ... The second was to change the emphasis of accreditation from process to outcome. The third was ... the clinical indicators.”

28th Nov 1997 - 27th Nov 2002

Dr Eva Raik AM, ACHS President

“I was very fortunate to have a wonderful team working at the operational level through what I would call the make or break years. We knew we had to push forward ...”

30th July 1997

Landslide at Thredbo

Eighteen people died when two ski lodges at Thredbo Alpine Village collapsed on a destabilised slope. There was one survivor - ski instructor, Stuart Diver.
January 1999
ACHS and Consumer Surveyors
One of the most important aspects of the development of accreditation in the late 1990s was the inclusion of mental health surveyors.

18th June 1999
ACHS office move
ACHS moves to its own premises in Macarthur Street, Ultimo, NSW.

September 1999
Cl User Manuals on floppy disk
The disk had a contents bar to access the files! ACHS News recorded the significant innovation.

4th April 2000
Douglas inquiry into O&G services at KEMH

Jun 2000 - Nov 2000
Dr Marjorie Pawsey, Acting Chief Executive
“I came in at the beginning of huge change, to coordinate the Charter for Change project that actually changed the face of the ACHS and, I believe, health care in Australia ...”

2nd December 1999
Glenbrook train crash
Seven people were killed and 51 injured when a Sydney bound commuter train runs into the Indian Pacific at Glenbrook in the Blue Mountains.

23rd June 2000
Childers Backpackers fire
Fifteen overseas and WA youth died in the Childers Palace Backpackers Hostel fire in Queensland. Ten years after the event, survivors recalled the community support they received in the aftermath of a horrific tragedy so far from home.
13th Nov 2000 - 1st Mar 2013
Mr Brian Johnston, ACHS Chief Executive
In November, 2000, the Board appointed Mr Brian Johnston to the position of Chief Executive, a position he held until February 2013.

15th February 2002
Insurance company collapses and impacts on medical indemnity
Australia’s largest corporate failure (HIH) affected many workers, including a small number of healthcare professionals. But in February 2002, when UMP (“United”) was placed in liquidation, thousands of privately practising professionals lost their indemnity cover.

23rd Nov 2002 - 25th Nov 2004
Dr Jon Mulligan, ACHS President
“One of the most important enduring challenges has been the issue of the credibility of the organisation, the reliability of the accreditation process as an indicator and measure of quality and safety...”

18th January 2003
Canberra bushfires
In bushfires on the outskirts of Canberra, four people died, 470 homes were destroyed, and 2,000 businesses, homes and vehicles were damaged.

26th Nov 2004 - 26th Nov 2008
Dr Michael Hodgson AM, ACHS President
When he was elected President of ACHS, Dr Hodgson had led the ACHS Standards Committee for a number of years.

2nd June 2003
Andre Chong and capsule endoscopy
While working at St Vincent’s Hospital in Melbourne, Andre Chong develops an edible camera which can be used to photograph the intestine as it progresses through peristalsis. The device would be known as pillcam.

2000

January 2001
EAT v3
Key updates implemented to the previous version.

March 2001
Pocket Guide for ACHS Surveyors 2001
The brief summary of EQuIP with contact and administrative details was welcomed by Surveyors. The EQuIP Guide/s were big documents that did not transport easily.

12th October 2002
Bali nightclub bombed
It was 11:30pm. The bars were packed with tourists. The bomb blast destroyed the Sari Club and then fire engulfed the neighbouring Paddy’s Irish Club. The attack killed 202 people (including 88 Australians). A further 240 people were injured.

January 2003
EQuIP Guide 3rd edn
The third edition foreword described it as "a more rigorous, transparent and credible program". The major change was the introduction of 19 mandatory criteria to be achieved at "moderate level" as a means of increasing the focus on quality and safety.

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January 2005

**Introduction of the AC60**

The Advanced Completion within 60 days (AC60) Review process enabled HCOs with “Some Achievement” (SA) the first of five levels and High Priority Recommendations to resolve problem areas and gain or maintain accreditation.

June 2005

**ACHS National Report on Accreditation Performance**

This would be the first evidence-based, national report describing the performance of Australian hospitals and healthcare organisations against internationally-accredited ACHS standards.

November 2005

**POS trend reports**

Data collected between 1998 and 2004 were provided by the ACHS Performance and Outcomes Service to members of the Clinical Indicator Program as time series data with extended trends analysis.

9th May 2006

**Beaconsfield Mine rescue**

Following an earth tremor, two miners, Brant Webb and Todd Russell, are trapped underground in very limited space. Two weeks later, they were rescued.

June 2006

**Early results from UNSW ARC Research on accreditation**

David Greenfield reports progress on the research by the UNSW under Prof Jeffrey Braithwaite to investigate the impact of accreditation.

15th January 2005

**EQuIP - a clinician’s guide published**

To engage physicians, a handbook that addresses issues of importance to clinicians and links them to the relevant EQuIP criteria and clinical indicators was published.

3rd October 2005

**Marshall and Warren receive Nobel prize for gastritis work**

Barry Marshall and Robin Warren investigated bacteria observed on stomach biopsies, ultimately proving a causal relationship to gastritis.

January 2006

**Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care Commences**

The Commission’s CEO, Professor Diana Horvath visited ACHS in February 2006 to update the Board on the vision for the Commission.

1st Feb 2006 - 28th Feb 2006

**First executive masterclass**

Held in three capital cities, the masterclass was led by A/Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite (UNSW) and Professor John Øvretveit (Denmark). The topic was “patient-based care; the challenge of a new paradigm”.

November 2006

**EQuIP 4 publications**

EQuIP underwent a major reorganisation for its 4th edition.
December 2006
ACSQHC reviews accreditation standards for safety
ACHS encourages its members to participate.

January 2007
Surveys against EQuIP 4 begin
The structure of the standards was maintained, but there were major changes in the 4th edition, particularly in the Clinical function.

January 2007
EAT v4
In the year 2007/2008, EAT celebrated its 10th anniversary since inception. During the same period in tandem with the launch of the ACHS accreditation program The Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program version 4 (EQuIP 4), EAT v4 became available as a web based application.

27th November 2008
Garling inquiry into NSW acute care services
Following the unexpected death at RNSH of a schoolgirl who had been hit by a golf ball, and a series of other ‘incidents’ public pressure mounted for investigation.

15th June 2009
EQuIP 4 for DPCs launched
The program aimed to reduce the amount of paperwork involved in accreditation for stand-alone day hospitals, without compromising the standards required.

5th June 2007
Kerang train crash
A V/Line train collides with a truck at a level crossing killing 11. Criticisms of emergency service provision for injured passengers were made during the coronial inquiry.

20th Nov 2008 - 20th Nov 2011
Associate Professor Peter Woodruff, ACHS President
Queenslander, Assoc Prof Woodruff had been a member of the ACHS Board since 2002 representing RACS (surgeons) and becomes President.

January 2009
CI data entry through PIRT Online
The availability of the Performance Indicator Reporting Tool (PIRT) online meant that members of the Clinical Indicator Program no longer had to await CDs with the necessary information to submit their CIs.

November 2009
ACHSI wins tender to pilot EQuIP in Hong Kong Hospitals
In a competitive international tender, ACHS International (ACHSI) was chosen to pilot re-worded EQuIP standards in eight Hong Kong hospitals.

Oct 2009 - Nov 2009
ACHS & ACSQHC collaborate on workshops
Workshops by ACHS and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) were held in Sydney, Ballarat, Adelaide and the Gold Coast during October and November 2009.
July 2010

**AHPRA - Healthcare professionals nationalised**
Legislation had to be enacted in every state and territory to support a nationally consistent system that would manage registration, continuing professional development, disciplinary review and nationally consistent education.

November 2010

**EQuIP5 for Day Procedure Centres**
EQuIP5 included a three year program developed specifically for stand-alone DPCs.

January 2011

**EAT5**
In July of 2011 EAT5 was launched to coincide with the launch of EQuIP5 in order to cater for the new standards.

17th November 2011

**Quakers Hill Nursing Home fire**
Roger Dean was a registered nurse who had been at the nursing home for less than a month. Drugs disappeared, and before that was investigated, the home caught fire, ultimately killing 11 residents.

October 2010

**EQuIP5 launched**
Similar in structure to EQuIP 4, EQuIP5 had a new nutrition criterion (5.7) in the clinical area, and a mandatory criterion on medication safety.

December 2010 - February 2011

**Flooding in Queensland**
Following years of drought, it was unprecedented rain that caused injury to people and property across the state. From North Queensland to Toowoomba, there were 38 deaths and six others presumed drowned.

24th November 2011

**Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Linegar, ACHS President**
Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Linegar is elected President of the ACHS Board at the 24 November 2011 Annual General meeting.

January 2012

**ART**
ACHS develops the Assessment Recording Tool (ART) to ensure that as an approved accreditor to the future new National Standards it can continue to carry out the business processes necessary for accreditation electronically.

February 2012

**Launch of EQuIP5 Corporate**
EQuIP5 Corporate Health Services was developed for head offices for health, and was suitable for both public and private sectors.
NSQHSS mandatory for all hospitals and day procedure services

The Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care (ACSQHC) had released their National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards in June 2012, allowing a six month period for organisations to acquaint themselves with the new standards. They became mandatory from 1 January 2013.

**January 2013**

**EQuIPNational - in addition to safety and quality**

EQuIPNational removed duplication with NSQHSS without omitting key areas covered by EQuIP5.

**1st Apr 2013 - 18th Jul 2014**

**Dr Lena Low Interim, Chief Executive**

Dr Low was Interim Chief Executive of the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) and its international subsidiary ACHS International (ACHSI) from February 2013 to July 2014. She also held the position of Company Secretary for both ACHS and ACHSI. She is the Executive Director of Corporate & Surveyor Workforce.

**21st Jul 2014**

**Dr Christine Dennis, Chief Executive Officer**

Dr Christine Dennis was appointed the new Chief Executive of ACHS and commenced in this role on 21 July, 2014.
CELEBRATING

40
YEARS

1974-2014