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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Launch of new ACHS Improvement Academy to boost Australian patient safety and quality

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) has today launched its new Improvement Academy drawing on international best practice to deliver contemporary content and training approaches to the field of safety and quality in healthcare.

In hosting the launch ACHS President, Mr John Smith PSM said he was delighted ACHS has the support of key overseas leaders and experts in the field of quality improvement.

“By introducing the new Improvement Academy, the ACHS is utilising some of the most respected leaders in the field of quality improvement and patient safety curriculum frameworks from the UK, the USA, NZ, Sweden as well as Australia,” he said.

“The ongoing development and education of the Australian healthcare workforce is a critical investment for hospitals and health care facilities seeking to enact substantial levels of innovative practice in its workforce,” Mr Smith said. “By offering lead level education for clinicians and managers we are signalling ACHS’s commitment to patient safety and quality improvement. Staff will be able to undertake 12 month training programs which will significantly build their skills and understanding of patient safety, and quality improvement in practice,” Mr Smith concluded.

The two flagship programs launched for 2016 are ***The Patient Safety Lead Training*** program and ***The Quality Improvement Lead Training*** program. The first program provides a holistic understanding of patient safety principles, investigative techniques and methods for improving patient safety. The second program focuses on continuous improvement methods and innovative thinking to build reliable systems to avoid patient harm. This program also includes methods for engagement with patients and families in the co-design of healthcare processes.

Both programs are designed for clinicians and managers in senior positions; either dedicated quality and /or safety manager/director or the head of department level.

The keynote speaker (via videolink) for the launch was Dr Brent James, Chief Quality Officer and Executive Director Intermountain Health Care (IHC), USA, who is one of the world’s foremost authorities on quality improvement and patient safety. Dr James said the type of programs the new Improvement Academy offer could positively influence the overall level of quality achieved in health in Australia for many years to come.

“Meeting the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century health care requires innovative practice and new ways of working together, these programs herald an exciting opportunity for the Asia Pacific regions”, said Dr Christine Dennis, CEO ACHS. Dr John Wakefield, Deputy Director General Qld and patient safety expert, and Ms Bernie Harrison, the Director of the new ACHS Improvement Academy also spoke at the launch held in Melbourne.

For more information contact Ian McManus, Communications Manager on 02 8218 2743, or 04111 59941 or visit <http://www.achs.org.au/improvement-academy/>

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