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MEDIA RELEASE.

ACHS Demonstrates International Leadership in Healthcare Accreditation with the third Hong Kong Hospital Authority Contract

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards has been awarded its third substantial contract by the Hong Kong Hospital Authority (HA) to assist the Authority with the ongoing implementation of its hospital accreditation program.

The new contract is a solid endorsement that ACHS performed well in its second, most recent three-year contract, demonstrating both its competitiveness and the high regard in which its accreditation services are held. The original Pilot Scheme for Hospital Accreditation commenced back in July 2009, and this is the third successive contract ACHS has had with the HA.

The new contract is for seven years and includes the training and preparation of 11 hospitals to be surveyed against the ACHS Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program (EQuIP) program. It also includes a total of 20 other previously accredited hospitals that use EQuIP as their accreditation program with some of them now having experienced two program cycles, of four year's duration each.

ACHS Chief Executive Officer, Dr Christine Dennis said the Board and Executive of ACHS are delighted with the strong level of international confidence being placed in an Australian-developed program.

"EQuIP has been around in Australia for close to 20 years, and Hong Kong was one of the first country overseas to pick up and run with it through a pilot scheme seven years ago," she said.

"In many ways, Hong Kong has been a testing ground for exporting the EQuIP program to other countries in the world, and we now export it to 17 other countries. Having our own staff and an office based in Hong Kong has also allowed us to be on the spot and to work with the HA team and their staff to better understand the accreditation process. We have supported the development of their own surveyor workforce, of which they now have approximately 150 trained surveyors who can confidently conduct a review of their peer's accreditation at survey.

"This third contract demonstrates their confidence in the highly successful program which promotes quality, safety and improvement throughout their many hospitals. Winning this contract reinforces ACHS's leadership position internationally in healthcare accreditation," Dr Dennis said.

As well as the preparation and accreditation survey of 11 hospitals the new contract includes provision for the training of an additional 40 local health care professionals as ACHS surveyors, maintenance of local surveyors who are already trained, and conducting a number of specialty training workshops.

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