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MEDIA RELEASE

ACHS Launches New EQulP6 program to Australian and Overseas Members

The sixth edition of the Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program (EQulP6) will be launched on 1 July by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS).

The new program is an updated version of the core EQulP program first introduced in Australia in 1996, written for healthcare organisations who provide non-acute clinical care services and updated usually every four years.

“EQulP6 meets the needs of a range of health organisations who are not strictly required to undergo accreditation, but who choose to undergo a review process to ascertain what level of standards they are currently meeting,” said ACHS CEO, Dr Christine Dennis.

“The key principles guiding the review process over the last two years has continued to be an emphasis on patient outcomes, the importance of measuring performance and the national agenda for quality and safety.”

During the review of the EQulP5 Standards, ACHS engaged widely across the health industry seeking both strategic and technical input.

“We are grateful for the generous input of time and expertise from both across Australia and internationally into updating the standards.” Dr Dennis said.

New provisions within the standards relate to internal emergencies and the merging of evaluation of individual patient outcomes with effectiveness of care.

The current version, EQulP5, was released in 2010 and there are more than 100 organisations overseas who are currently accredited to EQulP5, along with a range of Australian organisations.

EQulP6 will be implemented from 1 July, 2016 over a transition period of six months (allowing organisations scheduled for an accreditation event to elect to be accredited to either EQulP5 or EQulP6), but as of 1 January 2017, all must be assessed against EQulP6. A resource tool for non-acute services will supplement the EQulP6 Guides for Australian members.

ENDS.

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