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Safety Quality Performance

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Current healthcare trends show ongoing stable Improvements

#### Australasian Clinical Indicator Report for 2009 – 2016 released

Current Australasian healthcare trends across 20 data sets of indicators are mostly showing consistent ongoing levels of improvement as published in the new ***Australasian Clinical Indicator Report 2009 – 2016 (18<sup>th</sup> edition)***, or ‘the ACIR’.

Australia’s most statistically-detailed, national report on the performance of 736 healthcare organisations (HCOs) over an eight-year period has been launched in Sydney today. It provides a highly effective baseline of national performance to allow HCOs to assess where their performance sits in terms of their peers.

Published by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS), it is the only healthcare indicator set in the world which has consistently measured trends and results over a 24-year period.

ACHS President, Professor Len Notaras AM said that the ‘ACIR’ is the premier Australasian health data collection, enabling clinicians to understand how effective their performance is and use the knowledge to change practices for better patient care.

“There is no other dataset in the world that provides such raw data that can cut through and make a difference to how a HCO measures its own performance and create value in understanding what a suitable benchmark for health care actually is,” he said.

“ACHS continues to build the most extensive healthcare data collection in Australasia and this report details the ongoing changes of levels in performance up to 2016 for HCOs who contributed 30,226 data submissions.

“The benefit for clinicians is simple. By contributing to the data set their input enables clarity of where improvements have been made, and where there have been deteriorations. Understanding a problem is the first step to providing a solution and accurate data is key to this,” Professor Notaras said.

Key improvements include:

- In 2016, there were 71 CIs which showed statistically significant positive trends. Of these, 44 remained significant after allowing for changes in the number of HCOs contributing. There were four CI sets that had an improvement in at least two-thirds of all trended CIs. They were: Day Patient, Emergency Medicine, Intensive Care and Radiation Oncology.

Notable deteriorations where the potential to make improvements exist include:

- In 2016, there were 42 CIs which showed statistically significant trends in the undesirable direction. Of these, 19 remained significant after allowing for changes in the number of HCOs contributing over the period.
- Anaesthesia – the rate of patients with temperature less than 36°C in the recovery period has increased from 1.2 to 2.5 per 100 patients and increased by half over eight years.
- Maternity – the rate of an obstetric injury of selected primipara (women who give birth once) has increased from 27.7 to 34.4 per 100 patients from 2009-2016.
- Mental Health – the rate of physical restraint has increased from 0.87 to 4.0 per 100 completed episodes over the eight years, with an increase by two-thirds in 2016.

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