

Monday 30 January, 2012

**EMARGOED UNTIL 9.00am Wednesday 1 February, 2012**

## Media Release

### Putting Healthcare Accreditation Performance to the Test

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) today released the 4<sup>th</sup> biennial *ACHS National Report on Health Services Accreditation Performance*, for the years 2009 – 2010.

The Report contains aggregate information from 509 accreditation surveys of Australian healthcare organisations between 2009 – 2010, assessing their combined performance and emerging trends.

The healthcare organisations participating in this survey are members of the ACHS Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program (EQuIP) and include hospitals, day hospitals, clinics, community and mental health services.

ACHS President, Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Linegar, said “The overall data suggest an ongoing consistent level of improvement by organisations building on previous years’ efforts, across the spectrum of health care. There are some positive trends throughout the Report and these developments may have been supported by increased familiarity with the EQuIP 4 Standards.”

Highlights included survey trends indicating four areas of marked improvement in performance compared to the previous survey period, namely;

- the rate of Advanced Completion in 60 day surveys (AC60s) decreasing by 21%,
- the rate of High Priority Recommendations (HPRs) decreasing by 23%,
- a 27% increase in the awarding of Extensive Achievement (EA) ratings, and
- a 25% increase in the awarding of Outstanding Achievement (OA) ratings.

Key areas identified as needing further improvement\* included:

- Emergency and disaster management systems,
- Organisation-wide risk management policies and systems,
- Processes for credentialling clinicians, and
- Infection control systems.

The purpose of the Report is to establish broad national comparisons for accreditation performance, to assist healthcare organisations evaluate their own performance against the aggregate.

“The Report includes information on the majority of healthcare organisations in Australia and has three themed commentaries (on infection control, credentialling and organisational systems) as well as a report on accreditation performance research and detailed summaries by criterion of organisations which attained Outstanding Achievement (OA) ratings,” Adjunct Associate Professor Linegar said.

“The Report provides excellent industry “intelligence” to review the level of quality and safety initiatives being explored. Every Australian healthcare organisation has the opportunity to understand from this Report the level of improvements stemming from the 45 EQuIP criteria,” she said.

\*Six of the seven areas requiring further improvement are classified as non-clinical.

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*Established in 1974, the ACHS is Australia's leading healthcare accreditation agency. We are recognised by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) for our organisational framework, our accreditation program and our surveyor training program.*