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EQiPNational to provide seamless transition to new health accreditation requirements

A new era in healthcare accreditation begins today with Australia's premier accreditation organisation, the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) launching the comprehensive new EQiPNational program.

EQiPNational complements the introduction of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in HealthCare's (the ACSQHC's) mandatory 10 National Safety and Quality (NSQHS) Standards, due for implementation from 1 January, 2013.

In launching EQiPNational at ACHS's "Quantum Leap" conference in Sydney, ACHS President Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Linegar said EQiPNational will provide a seamless transition for healthcare organisations to meet all 10 NSQHS Standards, as well as a further five standards, developed to address high levels of performance in key areas.

"EQiPNational provides a broader approach for healthcare organisations to improve quality and safety as the extra five standards offer an organisation-wide assessment, representing both clinical and non-clinical systems and processes," she said.

"By extending the assessment of performance to the whole of the organisation you are creating a much broader context for the importance of quality and safety to be strengthened.

Adjunct Associate Professor Linegar said that there are five specific reasons why the EQiPNational program would extend the assessment of performance which include;

- they enable hospitals and health services meet the requirements of the National Standards,
- the program is simple and easy to implement,
- the comprehensive organisation-wide assessment includes the monitoring and reporting of clinical and non-clinical systems and processes,
- the content in the EQiPNational is evidence based; and
- ACHS members provided invaluable feedback during the developmental process.

"With nearly 40 years' experience and standing as a not-for-profit, accreditation organisation, ACHS continues the tradition of advancing quality and safety in Australia through the new EQiPNational program," she said.

The five extra Standards cover: Service Delivery, Provisions of Care, Workforce Planning and Management, Information Management and Corporate Systems and Safety and their integration provides a consistent quality and safety accreditation regime across an organisation.

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