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## MEDIA RELEASE

### First facility surveyed to the new NSQHS Standards

The new Blackwood River Clinic in Nannup, WA made history on 7 February as the first facility in Australia to be surveyed by ACHS to the new National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards.

Set in a picturesque 85 acres, a three-hour drive south of Perth, the standalone mental health day hospital which is yet to formally open its doors to patients also became the first ACHS member organisation to be surveyed to the new accreditation requirements.

ACHS Survey Co-ordinator Sandy Thomson said the smoothness of the interim accreditation process benefited from the support of an associated ACHS member organisation – Abbotsford Private Hospital – who provided guidance on requirements as well as providing good framework for sound, evidence-based policies and procedures, and good governance.

“This was certainly one of the more unusual interim accreditation surveys I have done, but the staff were able to demonstrate how the policies and procedures will operate in the near future,” Sandy said. The facility will operate day therapy programs for up to 30 patients who will benefit from the planned therapeutic model of care.

“The interim accreditation was timed to coincide with the licensing inspection by the Dept. of Health, both of which are needed in order to commence admitting patients,” Sandy explained. “The survey also enabled additional advice to be provided for licensing, noting that many of the requirements under the ACHS EQUIP program are required for licensing, with fire and safety being a key example.”

“This value-add was really appreciated by the organisation. Even though the new accreditation model is largely clinically focussed, surveyors should still provide advice on corporate and support areas where a risk might be identified. This is where being an experienced EQUIP surveyor really helps,” she said.

Chair of the Board of Blackwood River Clinic, Mrs Rose Moroz, said that the national standards and the process constructed by ACHS were very helpful in guiding the establishment of the Clinic and thanked the Assessors and ACHS for their approach and assistance.

“It is a rare event to accredit a new facility that has yet to admit patients, yet Blackwood has started with very strong foundations and in 12 months’ time they should have worked through all the survey team’s recommendations,” Sandy Thomson said.

“Having worked with organisations to assist them in their preparation for National Standards has also been a great experience and it is evident that everyone is keen to do well in 2013 and showcase their achievements under this new model,” she concluded.

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