

Expanding Medical Training in the  
Private Sector:  
Perspectives on a New Frontier in  
Medical Training

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# Why Some of Australia's Private Hospitals Should Be Centres of Academic Excellence ?

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- Traditionally the major public teaching hospitals in each State have been the centres of medical learning at undergraduate and postgraduate (ie specialist training) levels.
- There was no dialogue on the proposition that private hospitals could, or even, would participate with any conviction in the educational agenda.
- Major change in mind-set of Executives of Private Hospitals, Deans of Health Faculties and Vice-Chancellors, as well as DOHA and the Colleges such that education outside of public hospitals and in the private sector is increasingly regarded as an important environment for medical education.

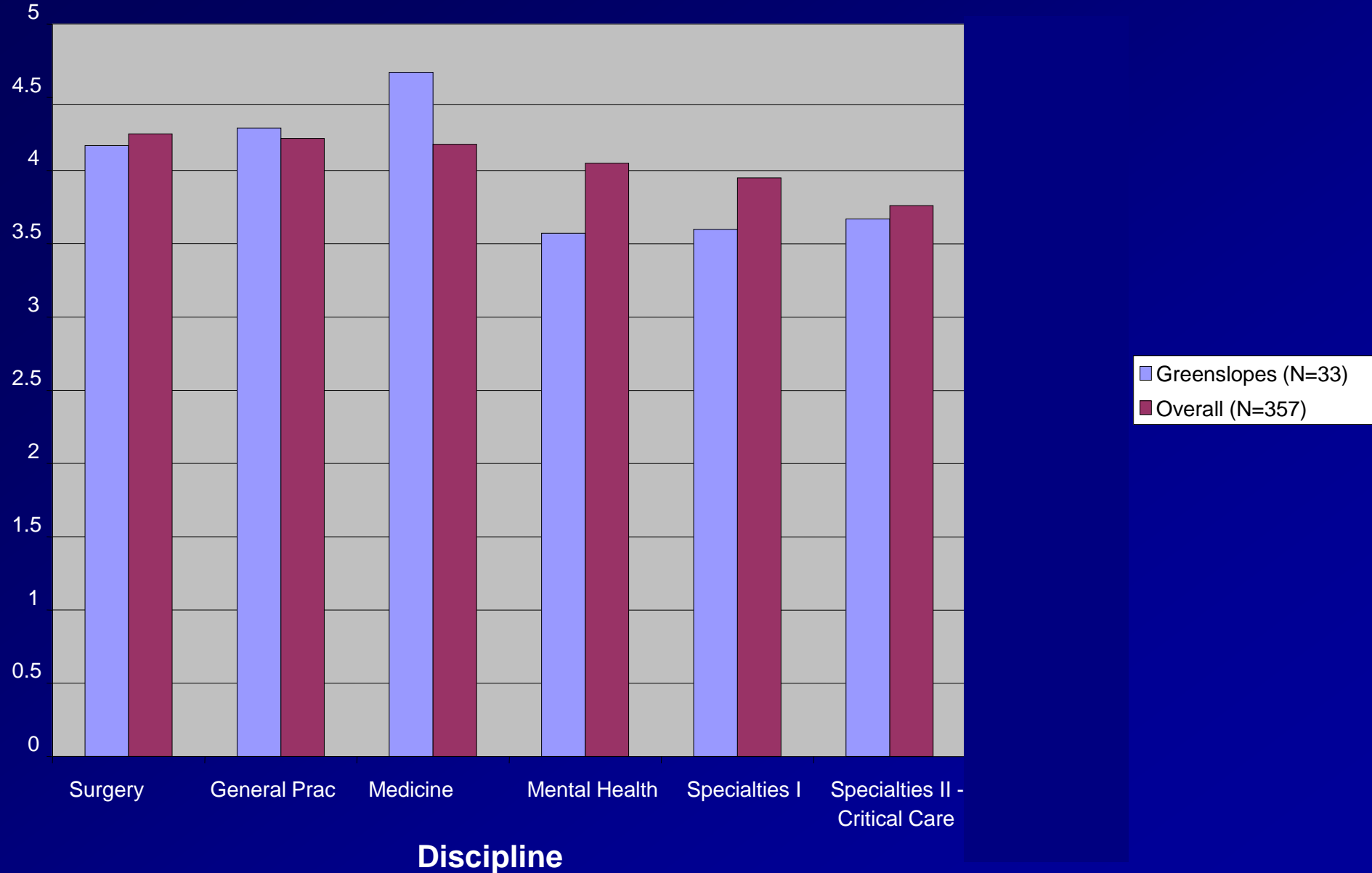


# Let's Dismiss Some Myths

## Myth 1

- "Teaching will not be as good in the private sector as the public sector"

# Mean Score 'Teaching' Rating by Discipline, Greenslopes

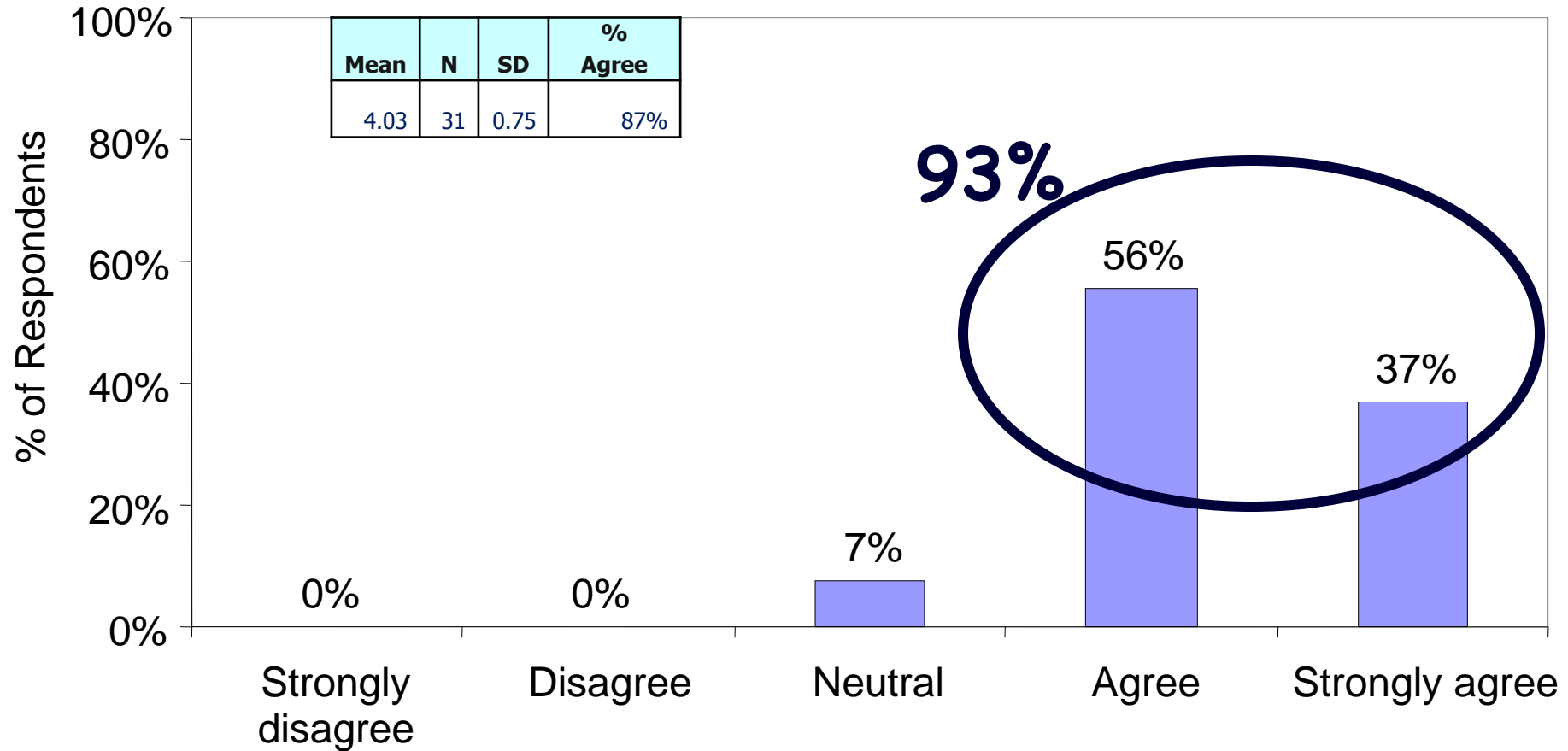


# Let's Dismiss Some Myths

## Myth 2

- "Private patients do not want to be bothered by medical students"

# Private Patients Responsive to Medical Students



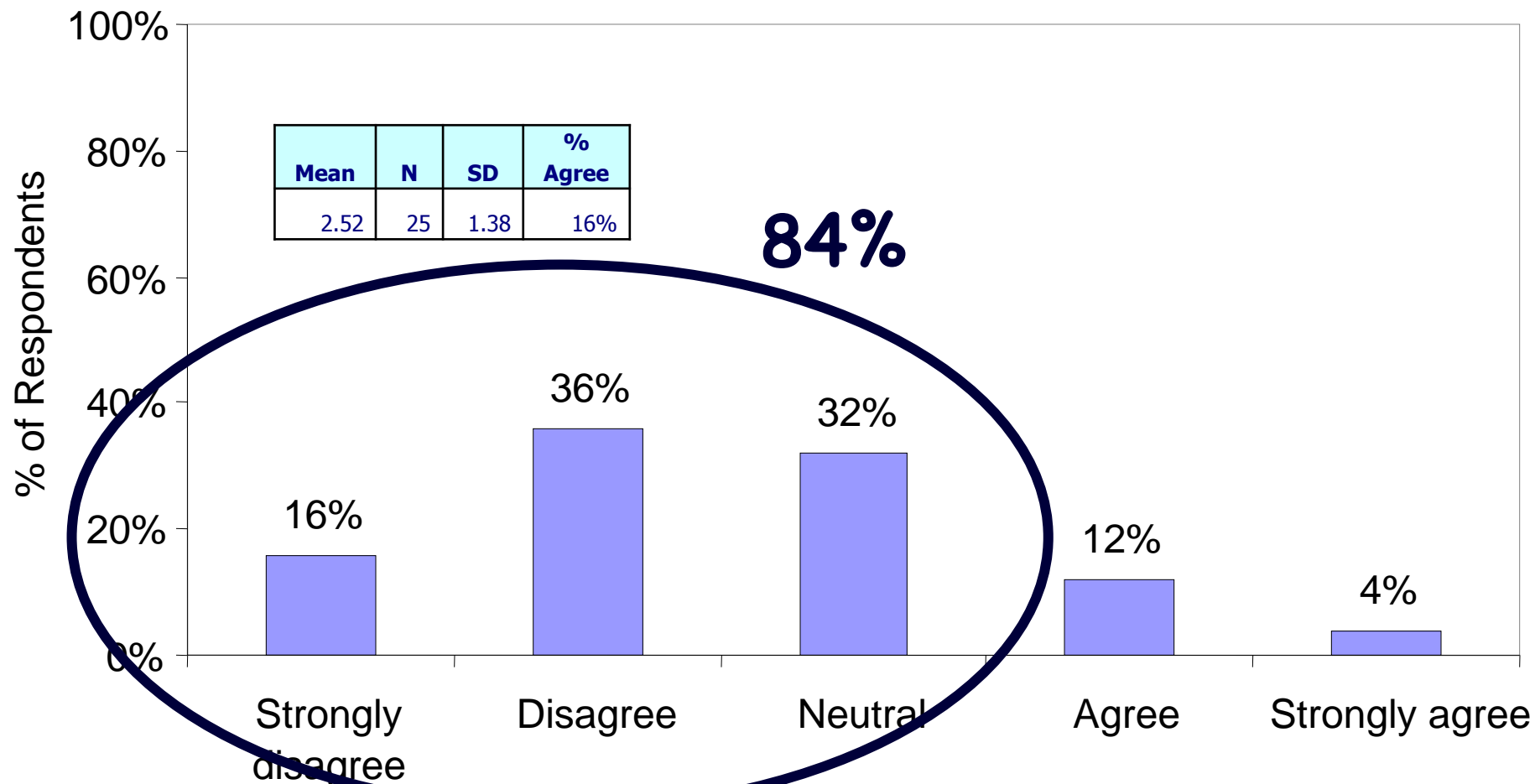
Private patients were responsive to medical students.

# Let's Dismiss Some Myths

## Myth 3

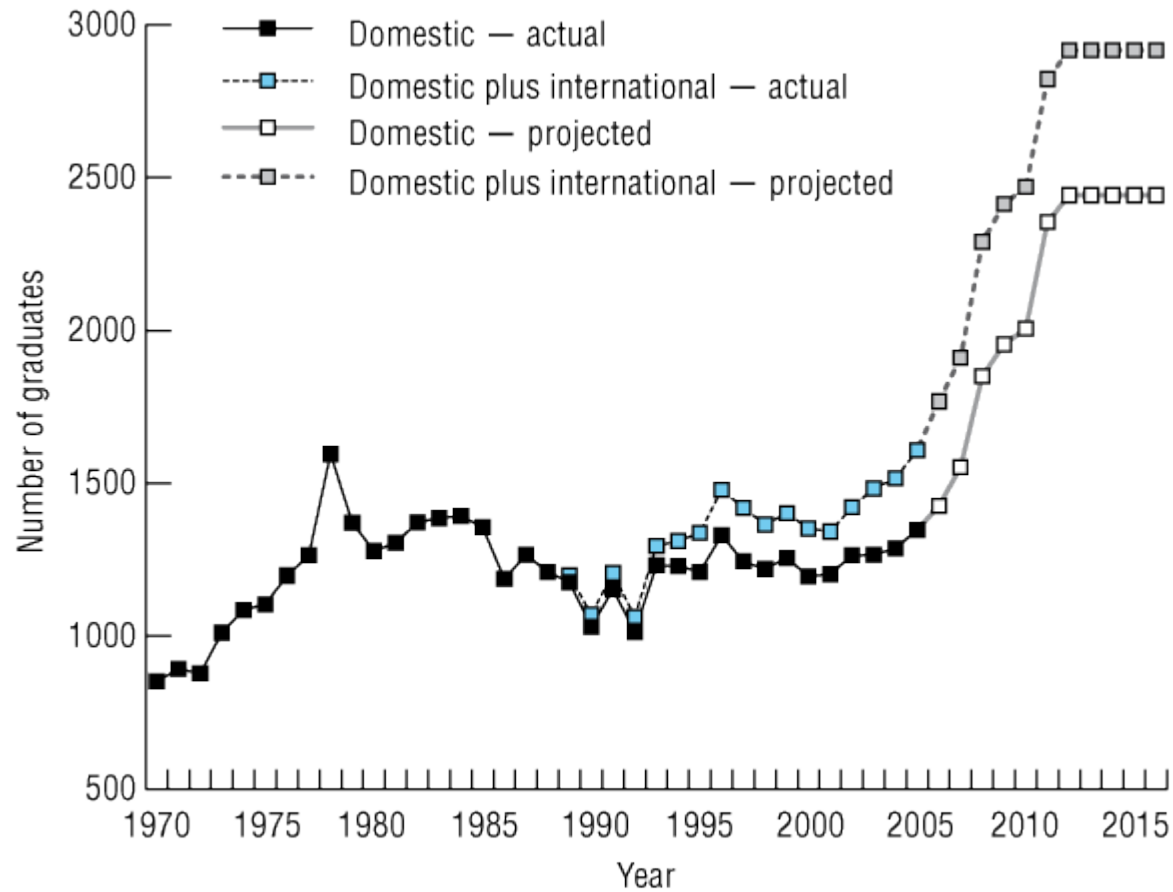
- "Students will feel disadvantaged being educated in the private sector"

# Learning in Private vs. Public Hospital



I felt that learning in a private hospital environment was a disadvantage compared to learning in a public hospital environment.

# PROPOSED NUMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL GRADUATES



Joyce et al MJA, 2007

# A Confluence of Many Factors have Changed the Educational Paradigm

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- Increasing number of medical students in response to the medical manpower shortage
- Inability of public hospitals alone to handle the increased number of medical students
- Increasing complexity of case-mix in private hospitals such that large private hospitals provide care to almost the full range of conditions that are managed in public hospitals
- Uptake of specialist training in the private sector
- Realization by the private sector of the benefits of medical education

# What are the Main Requirements for Medical Education in the Private Sector?

- University Partner
- Consultants engaged in education and a Unit Structure in the various departments

# The University of Queensland: A Highly Valued Partner in Medical Education



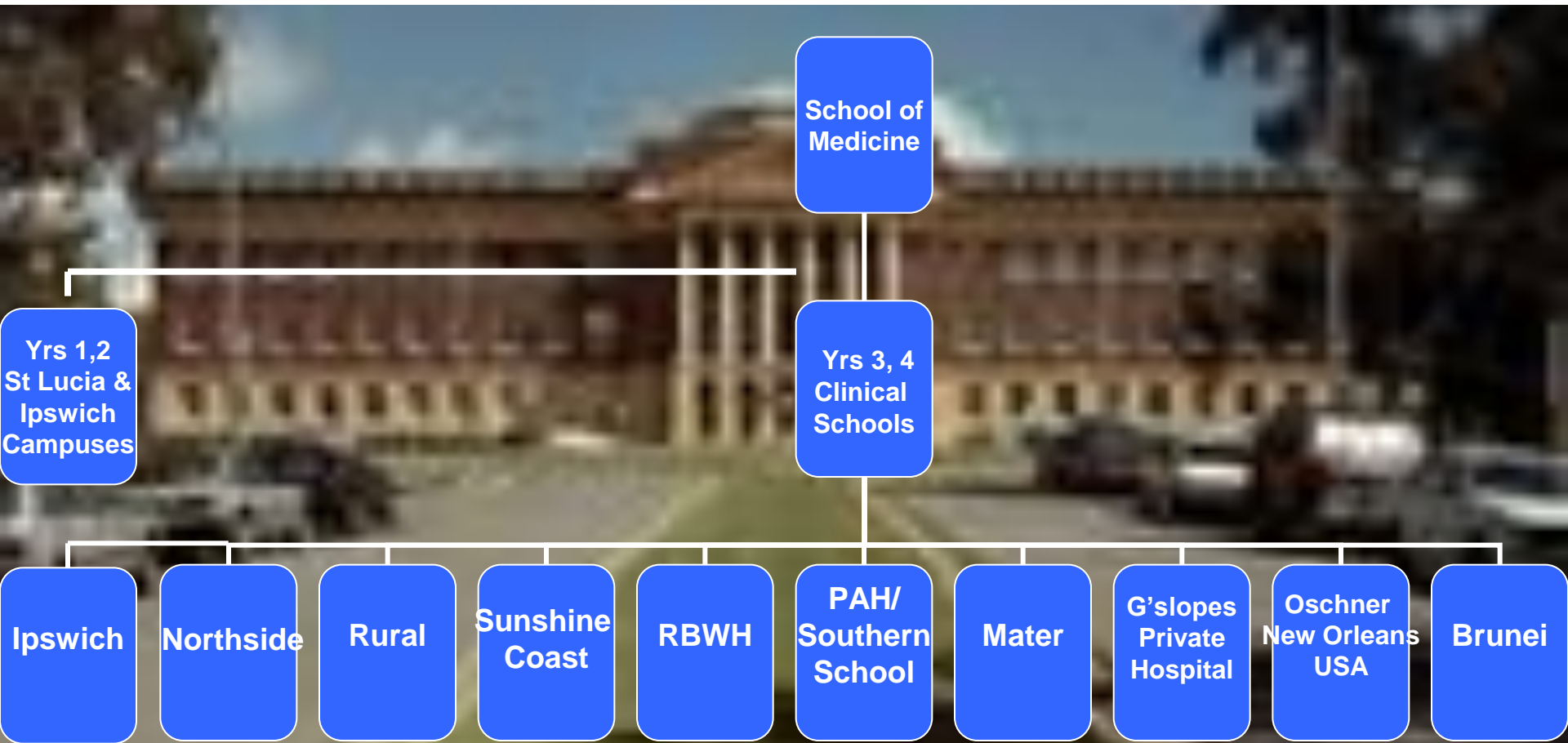
**Top 4 of Australia's Medical Schools**

**1743 students**

**360 Academic Staff**

**2402 Academic Clinical Title Holders and Teachers**

# The University of Queensland School of Medicine: Organisational Chart of a Multi-Dimensional School



**Multi-Dimensional School that provides opportunities for study in metropolitan public hospitals, as well as regional environments, international sites (USA, Brunei) and the private sector (GPH).**

Consultants wanting a part in the Educational Process

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graph TD; A[Consultants wanting a part in the Educational Process] --> B[Registrar Teaching]; B --> C[House Officers and Medical Students]; C --> D["Consultants, Registrars, House Officers, Students = The Unit Structure which underpins Medical Training"];
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Registrar Teaching

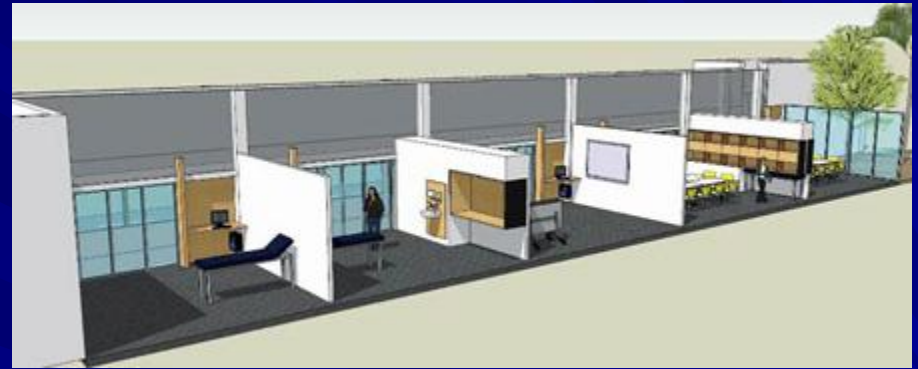
House Officers and Medical Students

Consultants, Registrars, House Officers, Students =  
The Unit Structure which underpins Medical Training

# What are the Other Requirements for Medical Education in the Private Sector?

- Appropriate patient load - 550 beds for 50 students
- Physical Facilities - Teaching, Administration & Research
- Commitment to the process by Hospital and Company Administration, and all levels of the University
- "Champions" on the ground

# Teaching Facilities at Greenslopes Private Hospital



# What is in it for Private Hospitals?

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- To develop an attachment between your hospital and medical graduates to increase the likelihood that an individual trained at your institution will conduct their future practice at your private teaching hospital, or that general practitioners trained at your hospital will refer to specialists practicing at your hospital
- There is no doubt that the development of educational models and peer review practices improve the standards of care and probably facilitate accreditation

# What is in it for Private Hospitals?

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- To provide private hospital sector with a greater voice in decision making in relation to health care policy
- To facilitate closer cooperative arrangements that exist between public teaching hospitals and co-located or geographically aligned public hospitals
- To improve educational facilities in the hospital
- To be a genuine contributor and share responsibilities in the education of your future workforce ie Good Citizen

# Greenslopes Private Hospital: Medical education will help take it from a very good hospital to a great hospital.



- Pursuing a noble cause
- Highly innovative development without peer in Australia
- Significant impact across many different health sectors
- Leave a lasting legacy of well trained medical graduates



# An academic environment in a private hospital can provide the professional rewards that traditionally attracted VMOs to public appointments

- Prestige ✓
- Perpetuity ✓
- Peer Review ✓
- Provides medical education to satisfy CME requirements ✓
- Providing education to junior doctors and medical students ✓
- Publications and research opportunities ✓

# Conclusions and Observations

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- Quite revolution in medical education happening as it moves into the private sphere
- Many factors are driving this change and they are not going away
- The medical unit structure is essential to the successful delivery of large scale teaching in the private sector

# Conclusions and Observations

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- There must be significant gains for the hospital in the provision of medical education
- Early quality assurance data suggests there is no disadvantage for students educated in the private sector
- A cooperative understanding of the mutual goals and aspirations of participants is a fundamental element of these developments

# Some of the Most Famous Hospitals in the World are Private Institutions

Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore



Massachusetts General,  
Boston



Mt Sinai Hospital, Manhattan Island New York





# Global Medical Student Assessment

