



# Reaping the benefits

*The private hospital sector is now reaping the rewards of its extensive preparation in the lead up to the first year of the implementation of the AHSSQA Scheme*

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As 2013 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe Christmas and New Year season - I look forward to bringing you more Quality in Focus news throughout 2014. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless efforts and dedication of Michael Roff and the team at APHA. The work of APHA in ensuring communication flows and supporting efforts and endeavours dedicated to the area of safety and quality is nothing short of outstanding.

We are now almost at the end of the first year of implementation of the new Australian Health Services Safety and Quality Accreditation Scheme. It appears that the private hospital sector has risen to the challenge and reaped the rewards of all of the planning and preparation undertaken in the lead up to 1 January 2013.

### An Update on Accreditation to the NSQHSS

There are 1,320 public and private hospitals and day hospitals in Australia, which are eligible to be assessed as part of the Australian Health Services Safety and Quality Accreditation Scheme. Approximately 420 facilities will be assessed by the end of 2013.

As at 30 September, 297 facilities have had an accreditation assessment, 77% private and 23% public. Approximately 64% have undergone a midcycle assessment to Standards 1,2 and 3, while the remaining 36% have been Organisations Wide surveys to the 10 NSQHSS. Of these;

- 51% have had accreditation status confirmed
- 49% have had actions that need to be addressed within 120 days

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) has collected information from accrediting agencies on health services awarded 'met with merit' when assessed to the NSQHSS. An analysis of this information shows that approximately half of the health services are awarded at least one 'met with merit' rating and this is consistent across jurisdictions, health service size and type. The actions that are awarded 'met with merit' most frequently are:

Action No.	Requirement
1.2.1	Safety and quality monitoring by the executive level of governance
1.2.2	Action is taken to improve safety and quality
1.6.1	An organisations-wide quality management system is used and regularly monitored
1.1.2	The impact on patient safety and quality of care is considered in business decision making
3.15.1	Policies, procedures and protocols for environmental cleaning
1.5.1	Organisation risk register is used and monitored
1.6.2	Actions are taken to maximise patient quality of care
3.15.3	Environmental cleaning audits



### Acknowledgements

Thank you to the members of the APHA Quality and Safety Taskforce for their continued and significant work throughout the year, as well as all of the private hospital representatives who give their time and contribute their expertise to ensure the voice of private hospitals is present across the many committees, workgroup and forums that focus on safety and quality issues across local, state and national arenas.

It has been a big year for the Commission and I would like to acknowledge the significant work of Deb Picone, Chief Executive Officer and the staff of the Commission. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of my fellow ACSQHC Board Members and the members of the Commission's Private Hospital Sector Committee.

Finally, thank you to you - when all is said and done, it is in our hospitals and at the coal face of patient care that all of the efforts in safety and quality count most.

I welcome your feedback on this column and on any matters relating to quality and safety and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

*I can be contacted via the APHA Secretariat - [admin@apha.org.au](mailto:admin@apha.org.au).*



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