



Speech by

Hon. Desley Boyle

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard Tuesday, 6 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Hospitals Performance Report 2005-06

Hon. D BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (Acting Minister for Health) (9.55 am): I rise to table for the information of the House Queensland public hospitals performance report 2005-06.

Tabled paper: Report by Queensland Health titled 'An Investment in Health—Queensland Public Hospitals Performance Report 2005-06'.

The Beattie government is committed to keeping Queenslanders fully informed about the performance of their health system. Last year we began publishing quarterly performance reports on how our hospitals are meeting the increasing demands of Queensland's growing and ageing population. The annual report I am presenting today contains more detailed analysis of how our hospitals are functioning across a range of 31 clinical indicators. This report will provide hospitals with valuable information to identify areas where they are doing well and where they need to do better.

Some 42 public hospitals having 2,000 or more inpatients per year are included in this first annual report. They are grouped with other hospitals of similar size and range of services to compare performance. Overall, the report shows our hospitals are busier than ever before and treating more patients than ever before. Demand for hospital services continues to grow by an average 2.3 per cent a year and the number of admitted patients treated per year has grown from 694,264 in 2001-02 to 781,652 last year.

The report shows our public hospitals performed well across all clinical indicators. This tallies with the latest national data showing Queensland's public hospitals are performing as good as, if not better than, comparable hospitals throughout Australia. However, the annual report highlights areas in need of improvement. For example, Cairns Base Hospital, in my electorate, performed favourably in 29 of the 31 categories in comparison with other hospitals in its peer group. Its performance was rated unfavourable compared with the peer group in only two clinical categories. These were the rate of women experiencing third or fourth degree perineal tears while having their first babies and the rate of long stay high-risk mental health patients being kept in the hospital. In every case where a hospital recorded an unfavourable result, a management action plan was immediately put in place to improve performance in that category.

Today's hospital performance report is a landmark document. We will continue to publish it annually in the interests of openness and transparency. I take the opportunity to encourage the private hospital sector to publish similar reports on their performance.