

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 664**  
**Asked on 16 June 2004**

MRS ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL)-

QUESTION:

Will he outline the successes of the Princess Alexandra Hospital transplant unit and how it has progressed over the last few years?

ANSWER:

The Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) Transplant Unit is a 14 bed adult inpatient unit with a collocated outpatient area.

The unit provides adult liver and renal transplant services for Queensland, National and International clients.

Approximately 6,000 outpatient occasions of service provided on an annual basis.

**Renal Transplant**

The unit undertook 114 renal transplants in the calendar year 2003, of these, 41 were live related transplants and 73 were cadaveric transplants.

2004 figures year to date, suggest that the number of renal transplants in 2003 will be exceeded. To date 17 live related and 39 cadaveric renal transplants have been undertaken.

Total patient and graft survival post renal transplantation continues to be the best in Australia and New Zealand and compares favourably with similar units internationally. Live related renal transplant graft survival rate over the proceeding two years has been 96%.

The incidence of rejection in renal transplantation has been reduced significantly with the introduction of new anti rejection drugs supplied by Queensland Health. Standardised drug protocols within the unit have had a positive outcome for patients including decreased lengths of stay and less need for invasive procedures. Incidences of rejection have decreased from more than 30% previously to the current 13 - 15%.

**Liver Transplant**

The Liver Transplant service at PAH was established in 1985, and has become a world leader in the field. The development of surgical techniques such as monosegmental grafts, left segmental grafts for children, the worlds first living donor liver transplant, the pioneering of split liver transplantation in Australia and the transplantation of the youngest infant in Australia have all contributed to the excellent reputation of the unit.

In 2003 Surgeons performed 32 liver transplants (3 children & 29 adult), down in numbers from previous years. On average 36 liver transplants per year are undertaken in Queensland with approximately four of these transplants occurring on children. The 2004 year to date figure (19) suggests that average or increased numbers will be met this calendar year. The increase can be attributed to the introduction of Queenslanders Donate, Link nurses within intensive care units throughout the state and recently the publicity from the creation of the David Hooke Foundation.

It is suggested that the publicity and increased public awareness created by the David Hookes Foundation may increase the donor rate by up to 15% on current numbers.

Data from 2003/4 shows a survival rate post liver transplantation of 89.3% at 2 years post operation. This survival rate is comparable to any unit nationally and internationally. The longest surviving liver transplant recipient in Queensland is approaching 20 years post transplantation.