



Queensland  
Government  
Queensland Health

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# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** District Managers  
Zonal Managers

**Copies to:** Medical Superintendent and Elective Surgery Coordinator

**From:** Dr S Buckland, Acting General Manager (Health Services)

**Subject:** Elective Surgery Performance

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I have recently examined the elective surgery statistics for 1 October 2000 and I am concerned that some Districts appear to have reduced the focus on achieving elective surgery commitments. I reiterate in the strongest possible terms that achieving and maintaining the Category 2 target of 5% or less of patients waiting longer than clinically desirable, whilst maintaining our success with Category 1 and budget integrity, remain top priorities for Queensland Health. An additional area of concern is that some hospitals continue to treat substantial numbers of Category 3 patients while reporting significant numbers of Category 2 patients who have waited longer than clinically desirable.

Category 1 patients should continue to be treated as a priority, followed by Category 2 patients **who have waited longer than 90 days**. No hospital should be reporting Category 1 patients who have waited longer than 30 days let alone Category 1 patients who have waited longer than 90 days. It would appear that some hospitals are not giving enough emphasis to these "long wait" Category 1 and Category 2 patients.

District Managers should also monitor the allocation of specialist outpatient sessions against surgical sessions to ensure an appropriate balance is struck.

I stress that elective surgery is a Government priority and that the Cabinet Budget Review Committee agreed to substantial funding to support this initiative. This funding must continue to buy additional elective surgery. The reporting and monitoring arrangements in place will ensure accountability for the expenditure of these funds. I intend to reallocate funding from those Districts not achieving elective surgery activity targets to those that can demonstrate spare capacity and a commitment to increasing throughput.

The efforts and success of you and your staff in striving to achieve the elective surgery commitments in the past are greatly appreciated. We must continue these efforts in 2000/2001.

(Dr) S Buckland  
Acting General Manager (Health Services)

10/10/2000