

Gold Coast Health Service District
14/08/09

Surge in surgery delivered to Gold Coasters

The Gold Coast Surgery Centre (GCSC) has played an integral part in increasing the amount of elective surgery being done on the Gold Coast by over 14 per cent.

The Quarterly Public Hospitals Performance Report released today shows the number of patients being admitted from the elective surgery waiting list has increased from 2884 this time last year to 3305 in this June quarter.

The number of elective surgery patients admitted has also increased by 3 per cent from the March to June quarter 2009.

Gold Coast Chief Executive Officer Adrian Nowitzke said the creation of the first stand alone day surgery centre in Queensland Health has proven its worth in its first year of operation.

The \$14.5 million facility recently celebrated its first anniversary, successfully reducing the number of people on elective surgery waiting lists on the Gold Coast.

“Not only has the Gold Coast Surgery Centre enabled us to increase the number of people receiving surgery by 14 per cent, our patients are also receiving their surgery sooner,” Dr Nowitzke said.

“For example, Category 1 long wait patients have reduced from 23 patients at July 1 2008 down to 5 patients at July 1 2009.”

The GCSC accounts for 25 per cent of all elective surgery cases across the Gold Coast Health Service District.

“The introduction of the Gold Coast Surgery Centre has enabled the District to increase its surgery capacity and dedicate operating theatres to appropriate elective surgery,” Dr Nowitzke said.

The GCSC service has been gradually building and is now performing an average of 80 to 90 theatre cases every week. It has the capacity to treat up to 6000 cases annually.

“The potential for additional surgery at GCSC demonstrates forward planning and future capacity being built into the local health system.

“As the surgery centre increases its scope of practice to include further specialties it will continue to perform a key role in providing Gold Coast people with greater access to services.

The Queensland Public Hospitals Performance Report June Quarter 2009 is available on Queensland Health’s website at www.health.qld.gov.au

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**For further information:
Public Affairs 5519 8733 or 0414 407103**

Category Definitions (Elective Surgery)

Category 1 – Urgent

Admission within 30 days desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it may become an emergency.

Category 2 – Semi-urgent

Admission within 90 days desirable for a condition causing some pain, dysfunction or disability, but which is not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency.

Category 3 – Non-urgent

Admission at some time in the future acceptable for a condition causing minimal or no pain, dysfunction or disability, which is unlikely to deteriorate quickly and which does not have the potential to become an emergency.

Long-wait

Term applied to any waiting time that exceeds the recommendation for that category.