Statewide Telehealth Services

Telehealth allows patients in remote locations to talk and see a health professional from any hospital in Queensland, without the need to travel to far from home.
Infrastructure

- 1996 – 2 endpoints
- 2001 – 90 endpoints
- 2009 – over 580 endpoints
The Aging Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Expectancy at selected ages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Males</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Females</strong></td>
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<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. 1301.0 - Year Book Australia, 2008 February 2008
Telehealth Model of Services

University of Queensland trial – Princess Alexandra Hospital to Toowoomba Base Hospital by Professor Len Grey

Outcomes:

- Reduced travel tome (125km return trip)
- Increase in clinical hours
- If specialist travels over 1.5 hours, Telehealth is ideal
Cairns Hinterland Health Service District
- 40,000kms²
- 3 Geriatricians
- 1 Psycho-Geriatrician

Sunshine Coast-Wide Bay Health Service District
- 84,000kms²
- 7 Geriatricians
- 2 Psycho-Geriatrician
- 2 Rehabilitation Specialists
## Cairns Hinterland Health Service District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Total Hospital Beds</th>
<th>Episodes per year &gt;70 years with LOS &gt;3 days</th>
<th>Distance from Cairns (kms)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cairns Base</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>1748</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innisfail</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mareeba</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Total Hospital Beds</td>
<td>Episodes per year &gt;70 years with LOS &gt;3 days</td>
<td>Distance from Nambour (kms)</td>
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<td>----------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nambour</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>2627</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryborough</td>
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<td>637</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hervey Bay</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>1090</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaralla Place</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>99*</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Total number of licences, majority of patients are long term residents.
Benefits

- Improved access to health services.
- Improved diagnosis and integrated care planning for older people.
- More efficient use of clinicians’ time and health resources.
- Improved communication with Transition Care Teams.
- A reduction in the level of inequity faced by rural people.
- Improved skills of rural and remote workers.
Key Performance Indicators

- Installation of vc units and subsequent training.
- Telehealth case conferencing and patient consultations.
- Increased Geriatrician involvement in multidisciplinary meetings.
- Trial in the use of mobile wireless videoconferencing.
- Reduction in patient waiting times for geriatrician care.
- Increased number of patients receiving multidisciplinary care with geriatrician input.
Progress To Date

Commenced April 2009

Nambour
- Weekly inpatient clinic
- Case conferences and patient bedside consultations

Cairns
- Weekly inpatient clinic + ad-hoc consultations
- Case conferences and patient consultations
- Transition Care Team – monthly district meetings, educational sessions
Contacting Telehealth

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Thanks for your time!