

Estimated Cost to Queensland Health for the Treatment of PNG Nationals 2004-2009

Updated: 18 March 2010
Queensland Health

Cost Element	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08			2008-09 (3)		
	\$			\$			\$			\$			\$		
Medical Transfers (6)	688,800			705,600			769,000			763,000			637,500		
*Estimated															
Inpatients (1)	Patients	Patient Days	Cost \$	Patients	Patient Days	Cost \$	Patients	Patient Days	Cost \$	Patients	Patient Days	Cost \$	Patients	Patient Days	Cost \$
Sub-total	242	2314	3,247,624	322	2,486	4,016,397	296	2,112	3,357,552	260	3,392	5,809,098	198	1,940	3,638,559
Island Clinic Presentations (2)	1636		369,736	1733 (Estimated due to incomplete data)		391,658	1,831		413,806	1,759		397,534	1,380		311,880
Dental Services (4)	N/A			N/A			N/A			N/A			156		12,622
Pharmacy (5)	N/A			N/A			N/A			N/A			110		261,807
TOTAL	4,306,160			5,113,655			4,540,358			6,969,632			4,600,561		
<p>1. Over these five years the average bed day costs for these patients increased from \$1,405 in 2004-05 to \$1,875 in 2008-09. These costs are regarded as very conservative estimates for these patients in view of the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland Health's 2007-08 and 2008-09 benchmark funding per weighted inpatient separation was \$3,800; • PNG nationals are more expensive patients to treat than Australian residents as they commonly present with co-morbidities (through having delayed presenting at a Queensland Health facility) and when moved to a high level facility commonly require interpreter services; and • Torres Strait HSD service costs, where over 53.9% of PNG nationals were treated during the period examined, can be up to three times the costs of services in urban areas because of the high fixed and variable costs experienced in this very remote region. • Uncertainties about data quality <p>2. Island clinic presentations underestimated due to inconsistent data capture on the islands. Presentations are predominantly to Saibai and Boigu. Cost based on Round 11 Non-admitted outpatient clinic costs and will be conservative compared to actual cost of providing these services in the Torres Strait.</p> <p>3. Inpatient data for 2008-09 is being reviewed due to uncertainties about data quality.</p> <p>4. Data for Dental Services only available from 2008-09.</p> <p>5. Included for information. Not added to total cost, as bed cost technically includes pharmacy expenses. However, the costs of providing medications to PNG patients, particularly with MDR Tuberculosis is significantly higher than the average. Data covers 11 month period only.</p> <p>6. Includes transfers for Thursday Island and Cairns only. Inconsistent data available for patient transfers and Medical Evacuation, particularly for Commercial Transfers. 2008-09 data for 9 months only. Queensland Health is undertaking a review of transport costs to better capture the cost of transport to Queensland.</p>															

Source: (inpatient) Health Statistics Service and Research and Economic Analysis Unit; (Transfers and non-inpatient) Torres and Cairns Districts; (Dental Services) Office of the Chief Dental Officer

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