

GLOSSARY & INDEX

Glossary of terms	292
Index	293
Annual report production costs	300



Glossary of terms

Bed days

The total number of bed days of all admitted patients accommodated during the reporting period. It is taken from the count of the number of inpatients at midnight (approximately) each day. Details for Same Day patients are also recorded as Occupied Bed Days where one Occupied Bed Day is counted for each Same Day patient.

Bed occupancy rate

The percentage of available beds which have been occupied over the year. It is a measure of the intensity of the use of hospital resources by inpatients.

Clinical governance

A term to describe a systematic approach to maintaining and improving the quality of patient care within a health system.

Comorbidity

The presence of one or more disorders (or diseases) in addition to a primary disease or disorder.

eMR – Electronic Medical Record

An online record which tracks and details a patient's care during the time spent in hospital. It is a single database where patient details are entered once and then become accessible to all treating clinicians, with authorised access, anywhere in the hospital.

Enrolled nurses

Enrolled Nurses work with Registered Nurses to provide patients with basic nursing care.

Episode funding

Funding the costs of caring for patients at each different phase of their episode of illness, based on cost of expected workload and available funds.

Funded/Available beds

A suitably located and equipped bed or cot where the necessary financial and human resources are provided for admitted patient care.

Healthcare associated infections

An infection a patient acquires while in a healthcare setting receiving treatment for other conditions.

Hospitalist

A medical practitioner whose primary focus is to enhance care for patients in a cross specialty mode throughout the patient's healthcare experience. The hospitalist specialises in facilitating and coordinating the care and care systems for patients. They work in wards, emergency departments (ED), outpatient departments and community settings.

Medical Assessment Unit

A designated hospital ward specifically staffed and designed to receive medical inpatients for assessment, care and treatment for a designated period. Patients can be referred directly to the MAU by-passing the emergency department.

Non-specialist doctors

A doctor without postgraduate medical qualifications who receives a government salary for the delivery of non-specialist healthcare services in a public hospital to public patients.

Nurse Practitioner

A registered nurse educated and authorised to function autonomously and collaboratively in an advanced and extended clinical role. The role includes assessment and management of clients using nursing knowledge and skills and may include but is not limited to, the direct referral of patients to other health care professionals, prescribing medications and ordering diagnostic investigations.

Triage

An essential function of emergency departments where many patients may present at the same time. Triage aims to ensure that patients are treated in order of their clinical priority and that their treatment is timely.

Index

A	
Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer Training Program	71
Aboriginal health.....	
children's oral health.....	62
housing and.....	32
indicators of.....	24–8
men's health	54
NGO funding for.....	206–7, 209
otitis media screening	62
participation in MERIT program	54
partnerships in.....	61–2
reducing hospital admissions	54
smoking reduction.....	30–1
Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AHMRC)	61
Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement.....	3
Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Strategy	54
Aboriginal staff	71, 74
accommodation support	32, 54
accountability in NSW health system.....	10–11
accounting policies.....	64, 96–102, 138–44, 169–71
accounts age analysis.....	202
activities, see programs and activities	
activity levels, see hospital activity levels	
Acts administered by NSW Minister of Health.....	240
acute and non-acute inpatient care utilisation.....	254–5
adaptation and readiness.....	75–7
addiction medicine, training in.....	70
administration.....	176–200
admissions	
avoidable	53, 55
from emergency departments.....	46–7
unplanned/unexpected re-admissions.....	50
Adolescent Vaccination Program.....	32
adolescents, see children's health	
adult immunisation, see immunisation	
affiliated health organisations.....	11
after balance date events	129, 161, 173
After Hours GP Clinics.....	53
aged, see older people	
Air Quality Index (AQI)	33
alcohol use	31, 36–7
involuntary treatment trial	64
Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy.....	77
NGO funding for services.....	210–11
partnerships in dealing with.....	61
Allied Health ReConnect	69
Ambulance Service of NSW.....	3, 11, 282
disease surveillance and	75
off-stretcher time.....	46–7
response time	44–5
ambulatory care (mental health).....	58, 255
amortisation.....	104, 147
antenatal visits	56
appropriations.....	107
Area Health Advisory Councils	15, 180, 236
Area Health Services.....	11
financial indicators.....	84
maps and profiles.....	261–9, 271–9
Public Health Units.....	286
assets	110
accounting policies	99–102, 141–4
budget review.....	122, 157
financial	109, 110, 151
intangible.....	112, 152
management of	63, 65, 203–4
non current.....	110, 148, 151
restricted.....	113, 153
Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2007:.....	43
audit reports	
Department of Health.....	87–88
HAC special purpose service entity	162–3
Health Administration Corporation.....	130–31
Australian Childhood Immunisation Register.....	38
authority in NSW health system	10–11
avoidable deaths	32, 36–7
avoidable hospital admissions	53, 55
Awards for Excellence	188
B	
babies, see children's health	
balance sheet, see also after balance date events	
Department of Health.....	92
HAC special purpose service entity	167
Health Administration Corporation.....	135
Barker, Ken.....	197–8
beds and bed days (mental health).....	253, 255
behaviour, ethical.....	13
benefits, see cost-benefit analysis of health services; employee benefits	
Biopreparedness Unit	75
birth, see childbirth	
booked surgical patients, see surgery	
books and booklets published.....	199
borrowings.....	114, 154
brochures published.....	199
budgeting	
2008/09 and forward years	85
budget review.....	121–2, 157
Episode Funding.....	64
net cost of service	66
performance against allocation.....	80–1
Resource Distribution Formula	65
variance against Budget Paper 4:	65
Bug Breakfast.....	70
Business Information Strategy	228
C	
Callan Park site, relocation of health services from.....	129
Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital Private/Public Partnership.....	117–18, 120
cannabis use.....	35, 43
Capacity Building Infrastructure Grants Program.....	77, 220

capital allocation	65	commitment to service	176
Capital Assets Charging Policy	63	commitments for expenditure	116–17, 155–6
capital management	100–2, 141–4	committees	234–6
capital works programs	203–4	communicable diseases	33
care, people's experiences of	40–52	Bug Breakfast	70
Career Medical Officers	70	field exercises	76
career paths	69–70	healthcare associated infections	41, 52
carers, support for	209	notifications in NSW	247–8
cash allocations	83	readiness to respond to emergencies	75–6
cash and cash equivalents	108, 150	Community Drug Action Teams Grants (CDATs)	31
cash flow statements		community health care	53–9
Department of Health	93	Community Health Review	53
HAC special purpose service entity	168	community participation	15
Health Administration Corporation	136	community services, NGO funding for	209–10
cash flows		comorbidity	43, 77
budget review	122, 157	drug and alcohol consultation services	61
reconciliations	121, 156	complaints	180
Central Coast AHS, see North Sydney Central Coast AHS		compliance with financial directives	94
Central Line Associated Bacteraemia in ICU project	52	compliments	180
Centre for Aboriginal Health	18	conditions on contributions	106, 149
Centre for Epidemiology and Research	18	consolidated financial statements	84
Centre for Health Advancement	19	budget review	121–2, 157
Centre for Health Protection	18–19	consultants, use of	214
Centre for Health Record Linkage	62	consumer participation	15, 179–80
Centre for Healthcare Redesign	69–70	consumer satisfaction	40–1
Centre for Oral Health Strategy	19, 258	contingent liabilities	120, 156
certification of accounts		continuing care in the community	53–9
Department of Health	87	contributions	105–6, 148–9
HAC special purpose service entity	164	corporate charter	9
Health Administration Corporation	130	corporate governance	10–14, 20
changes in equity	115–16, 155	governance committees	234
Chief Financial Officer	197–8	Corporate Governance and Risk Management Branch	13, 20
Chief Health Officer	18, 196	corporate services, cost savings in	63
Chief Information Officer	198	Corporate Systems Phase One	228
Chief Procurement Officer	198	corruption, fighting	76
Child Health Screening and Surveillance program	33	cost-benefit analysis of health services	63–7
childbirth		cost of service, see net cost of service	
Aboriginal health	54	costs for FOI	245–6
induction of labour	33	Council of Australian Governments (COAG)	2, 71
low birth weight babies	56	Country Careers program	71
NGO funding for	209	Crawshaw, Karen	20, 197
prenatal reporting and	54–5	credit card certification	205
children's health		credit card use	205
Aboriginal oral health	62	credit risks	123–5, 158–9, 173
child/adolescent beds (mental health)	256	creditor performance	67, 81
dental health	32	criminal record checking	76
GP Resource Kit	43	critical care	40
immunisation	32, 38–9	Crown Entity, acceptance of employee benefits by	107
infant mortality	25–6	culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities	42–3
low birth weight babies	56	current assets	108
mental health	33, 42	current/non current borrowings	114, 154
otitis media screening	62	current/non current liabilities	114–15, 155
overweight and obesity	30, 34	current/non current receivables	108, 171
postnatal home visits	57	customer participation	15, 179–80
vision screening programs	33	customer satisfaction	40–1
Children's Hospital at Westmead	285		
chronic illnesses		D	
patient-held records	42	data sources for mental health report	256
quality of life	32	deaths	
cigarette smoking, see smoking		death rates	26, 32
claims, see insurance activities		from falls in hospitals	51
Clinical Excellence Commission	283	infant mortality	25–6
clinical governance	15	sentinel events	50
clinical incidents	41	Demand and Performance Evaluation	20
Clinical Services Redesign Program	19, 47, 69–70	Dementia Action Plan	43
clinical staff	238–9, see also staff	dental health, see oral health	
as proportion of total staff	73	Department of Health	6–8, see also health system
Co-Exist NSW	43	Management Boards	12, 234
COAG (Council of Australian Governments)	2, 71	reporting entity	96
Code of Conduct	188	services from	258

strategic directions.....	7–8, 29, 37
structure and responsibilities.....	16–21
support for ministers from.....	10
depreciation and amortisation.....	104, 147
Deputy Director-Generals.....	16–17, 19, 20
performance statements.....	195–8
dialysis, home-based.....	64
diet.....	30, 34
Director-General	
corporate governance responsibilities.....	12
performance statement.....	195
responsibilities of.....	16
year in review.....	2–3
Disability Action Plan.....	181
disaster preparedness.....	75–6
disease notifications.....	247–8
disease surveillance.....	75
disposal of non current assets.....	110, 148, 151
doctors, see medical staff	
Downe v Sydney West Area Health Service.....	241
Drug Action Week.....	31
Drug and Alcohol Consultation Liaison Services.....	61
drug and alcohol services, NGO funding for.....	210–11
Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act 2007.....	64
drug use, illicit.....	31, 35
involuntary treatment trial.....	64
medically supervised injecting centre trial.....	64
Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy.....	77
Neuroscience of Addiction Project.....	77
partnerships in dealing with.....	61
training in addiction medicine.....	70
E	
ear infections.....	62
early intervention.....	54–5
Early Pregnancy Units.....	40
eating disorders.....	42–3, 53
education and training.....	70–1
elderly, see older people	
elective surgery.....	40, 48–9
Electronic Health Record (EHR).....	227, 231
electronic information systems.....	63, 227, 231
Electronic Medical Record (eMR).....	227, 231
electronic service delivery.....	227
emergency calls.....	46–7
emergency departments	
admission performance.....	44–5
Emergency Department Workforce Action Plan.....	71
improved access to.....	40
infectious diseases emergencies.....	75
off-stretcher time.....	46–7
public health emergency exercises.....	76
staff for.....	68–9
employee benefits	
acceptance by the Crown Entity of.....	107
accounting policies.....	97–8, 140, 171
employee related expenses.....	66, 102, 145
employee relations.....	189
employees see also staff.....	189
EEO groups.....	182
overseas visits by.....	192
workers' compensation for.....	190–1, 221
workforce statistics.....	238–9
workplace injuries.....	68, 72
Workplace Relations and Management Branch.....	20
Employment Screening and Review.....	76
ENABLE NSW.....	231
energy management.....	226, 229
environmental health	
Aboriginal health and.....	32, 71

Air Quality Index (AQI).....	33
Environmental Health Branch.....	258
Episode Funding.....	64
Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan.....	182
equipment, see property, plant and equipment	
equity, changes in.....	115–16, 155
ethical behaviour.....	13, 76
ethnic affairs priority statement.....	183–6
Executive and Corporate Support Unit.....	16
Executive and Ministerial Support Service.....	16
expenditure	
commitments for.....	116–17, 155–6
three year comparison.....	224
expenses.....	84
employee related.....	66, 102, 145
operating.....	103, 146
program statements.....	95, 137
statements of.....	91, 133–4, 166
experiences within health system.....	40–52

F

facilities, see services and facilities	
fact sheets.....	199
fair value.....	109, 128, 161, 173
falls.....	39, 51
Families NSW program.....	57
fees and costs (FOI).....	245–6
field exercises.....	76
Finance and Business Management.....	20
finance costs.....	104, 147
Finance, Risk and Performance Management Committee.....	12
financial assets.....	109, 110, 151
financial directives, summary of compliance with.....	94
financial indicators.....	84
financial instruments.....	123, 157–8, 172
financial liabilities.....	125–6, 159–60
financial management.....	64
creditor performance.....	67
General Fund variance against budget.....	66
Variance against Budget Paper 4.....	65
financial reports	
Department of Health.....	87–129
HAC special purpose service entity.....	130–161
Health Administration Corporation.....	162–174
financial statements	
consolidated.....	84
notes to and forming part of.....	96–129, 138–161, 169–73
financing, non cash.....	121, 157
Firth, Hon. Verity.....	10
Fixing Houses for Better Health project.....	32
flyers published.....	199
FOI applications.....	242–6
forward planning.....	85
fraud prevention.....	76
freedom of information report.....	242–6
funding, see also health expenditure.....	2, 82–3, 202–24,
cost-benefit analysis.....	63–6
non-government organisations.....	206–13
public health outcome funding agreement.....	219
Resource Distribution Formula.....	65

G

Garling, Commissioner Peter.....	2
Gates, David.....	198
general practitioners	
After Hours GP Clinics.....	53
GP Online Learning Program on eating disorders.....	53
GP Resource Kit.....	43
mental health care.....	54
glossary of terms.....	288

Go for 2&5 fruit and vegetable campaign	30
goals	9
goods and services, sale of	104–5, 147
governance, see clinical governance; corporate governance	
GPs, see general practitioners	
grants and subsidies	104, 105, 147, 148, 215–18
Capacity Building Infrastructure Grants Program	220
Graythwaite property	129
Greater Southern AHS	272–3
Greater Western AHS	60, 274–5
guidelines published	199

H

HAC, see Health Administration Corporation	
HASI in the Home	54
Health Administration Corporation	10
Health Support Services and	11
independent audit report	130–31
programs and activities	149
reporting entity	138
Health Administration Corporation special purpose service entity, independent audit report	162–3
Health Care Advisory Council (HCAC)	15, 179, 234
health expenditure	26–7
Health Fraud Control Strategy	76
health indicators, comparative performance	24
Health Infrastructure Board	11
Health Infrastructure Office	63, 259
Health Priority Taskforces	179, 235–6
health professionals, numbers of	252, see also staff
Health Professionals Registration Boards	258
health promotion	36–7
Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002, statutory review of	193
health records, linkage of	62
Health Service Performance Improvement	19
health services, satisfaction with	40–1
health status, see health indicators	
Health Support Services	11, 63, 230–233
health system, see also performance indicators	10–11,
comparative performance	24–8
cost-benefit analysis	63–7
experiences of	40–52
partnerships in	60–2
readiness for new opportunities	75–7
sentinel events as indicators of problems in	50
Health System Support Division	11, 20
Health Systems Performance	19–20
health workforce, see employees; staff	
healthcare associated infections (HAI)	41, 52
Healthelink Electronic Health Record, see Electronic Health Record (EHR)	
HealthOne NSW program	53
HealthSupport	63
HealthTechnology	63
hearing loss	62
hepatitis C	32
heritage management	203
HIV/AIDS	32
home-based dialysis studies	64
home visits, postnatal	57
Honorary Medical Officers, indemnity cover	222
hospital activity levels	27–8, 249–51
hospital admissions, see admissions	
Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) Stage 4B - HASI in the Home	54
Housing for Health project	32
Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)	76
human resources, see also employees; staff	145, 187–9
Hunter New England AHS	276–7

I

ICT strategy	227
--------------	-----

lemma, Morris	11
Illawarra AHS, see South Eastern Sydney Illawarra AHS	
illicit drug use, see drug use, illicit	
immunisation	32, 38–9
Incident Information Management System	41
incidents	41, 50
income, statements of, see also revenues	
Department of Health	91
HAC special purpose service entity	165
Health Administration Corporation	133
incorrect procedures, see procedures	
independent audit reports	
Department of Health	87–8
HAC special purpose service entity	162–3
Health Administration Corporation	130–31
Indigenous people, see Aboriginal health; Aboriginal staff, Torres Strait Islander staff	
induction of labour	33
infant mortality	25–6
infants, see children's health	
infection control in hospitals	52
infectious diseases, see communicable diseases	
influenza	38, 75
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	19
information kits	199
information management	227
information systems	63
infrastructure	11, 63, 220, 259
ICT strategy	228
injecting centres, trial of	64
injuries	
deaths from falls in hospitals	51
fall injury hospitalisations	39
insurance and	221
workplace	68, 72
inpatient admissions from emergency departments	46–7
inpatient care utilisation (mental health)	254–5
inpatient separations (mental health)	58
inquiries	2
Institute of Medical Education and Training	233
Institute of Rural Clinical Services and Teaching	17–18
insurance activities	221–3
intangible assets	112, 113, 152, 153
Integrated Perinatal and Infant Care, see Safe Start program	
Inter-Government and Funding Strategies	17
Interagency Action Plan for Better Mental Health, Second Yearly Progress Report	60
interest rate risks	125–6, 159–60, 173
Internal Audit Branch	13
International Dental Graduate Program	70
International Medical Graduates (IMGs)	68
inventories	109, 151
investments	121, 157
cost-benefit analysis	63–7
mental health	42
revenue from	105, 147
IRCST, see Institute of Rural Clinical Services and Teaching	

J

judicial decisions	241
Justice Health	284

K

key indicators, see performance indicators	
Koori Kids Koori Smiles	62

L

labour, induction of	33
learning and development	187–8
leave, see sick leave	
Legal and Legislative Services	20

legal liability	222
legal system, MERIT Program in	54
legislative changes	240
liabilities	115, 155
acceptance by the Crown Entity of	107
budget review	122, 157
contingent	120, 156
life expectancy at birth, see also potentially avoidable deaths	24–5
liquidity risk	125–6, 159–60, 173
Live Life Well @ School (LLW@S)	30
Local Government Drug Information Project	61
Long Bay Forensic and Prisons Hospital Private/Public Partnership ..	118, 120
low birth weight babies	56
Lynch, Paul	10

M

Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) Program	54, 61
mandatory reporting	43
manuals	199
maps and profiles	
metropolitan Area Health Services	261–9
rural Area Health Services	271–9
market risk	126–8, 160–1
maternity care, see pregnancy; prenatal reporting	
Matthews, Dr. Richard	16–17, 195–6
maturity analysis of financial liabilities	125–6, 159–60
McGrath, Professor Katherine	19, 196–7
Meagher, Hon. Reba	10
Media and Communications Unit	16
Medical Assessment Units	40, 47
medical imaging	227
medical indemnity	221
Medical Practice Act 2008:	43
medical records	62, 176
medical staff	68–9
education and training	70–1
general practitioners	43, 53, 54
hospitalist career pathway	70
medically supervised injecting centre trial	64
men's health, Aboriginal	54
mental health	
Aboriginal Mental Health Worker Training Program	71
aged care partnership	64
ambulatory contacts	58
CALD communities	43
community health	55
comorbidity	77
emergency admission performance	46–7
employment and	60
investment	42
NGO funding for	211–12
of children	33, 42
overnight inpatient separations	58
partnerships in	60–1
re-admissions	59
strategic directions	42
substance use and	43
suspected suicides of patients	58–9
workforce in	70
Mental Health Act 2007:	42, 253–6
Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Office	17
Mental Health Disaster Advisory Group	76
Mental Health Infrastructure Grant Program	60
Mental Health Workforce Development	70
MERIT Program	54, 61
Methadone Program	258
methamphetamine (ice) users	43
metropolitan Area Health Services	261–9
midwife practitioners	70
Midwifery, see Nursing and Midwifery	

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)	10
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)	10
Minister for Health	10, 240
Ministerial Advisory Committees	236
Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS)	77
misconduct, mandatory reporting of	43
monitoring health system performance, see performance indicators	
mortality, see deaths	
Movable Heritage policy	203
Multicultural Mental Health Plan 2007-2012:	42
Munch and Move	30
My Health Record	42

N

net cost of service	66, 121–2, 156
Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies	61
Neuroscience of Addiction Project	77
New England AHS, see Hunter New England AHS	
NGOs, partnerships with	60–2
non-acute inpatient care utilisation (mental health)	254–5
non cash financing	121, 157
non current assets	110, 148, 151
non current borrowings	114, 154
non current liabilities	114–15, 154
non current receivables	109, 171
non-government organisations	
funding of	206–13
partnerships with	60–2
North Coast AHS	278–9
North Sydney Central Coast AHS	262–3
North Sydney DoH office	258
nosocomial infections, see healthcare associated infections (HAI)	
notes to and forming part of financial statements	
Department of Health	96–129
HAC special purpose service entity	169–73
Health Administration Corporation	138–161
Notifiable Diseases Database	33
NSW Health, see Department of Health	
nurse practitioners	70
Nursing and Midwifery	20, 69, 71
Nursing Re-connect	69

O

obesity	30, 34
occupational health and safety	190
immunisation	32
workplace injuries	68, 72
O'Connell, Dr Tony	19
off-stretcher time	46–7
Office of the Director-General	16
OH&S, see occupational health and safety	
older people	
evaluation of mental health/aged care partnership	64
fall injury hospitalisations	39
mental health partnerships with aged care	64
SMHSOP community teams	54
Older People's Mental Health Policy Unit, devolved to GWAHS	60
open disclosure	41
operating activities, reconciliation of cash flows from	121, 156
operating consultants	214
operating expenses	103, 146
operating statements	
Department of Health	90
Health Administration Corporation	133
opportunities, readiness for	75–7
oral health	32
International Dental Graduate Program	70i
NGO funding for	212–13
oral health survey	32
Tooth Smart Dental Program	64

Orange and Associated Health Services Private/Public Partnership.....	119, 120
organisational structure	16–21
otitis media screening, Aboriginal children.....	62
overseas recruitment	69
overseas visits.....	192
overweight and obesity.....	30, 34

P

pandemic influenza.....	75
Parliament and Cabinet Unit	16
partnerships for health.....	60–2
patient administration system	228, 232
patient experience.....	40–52
patient-held records.....	42
payables.....	114, 153, 171
payment of creditors.....	81
performance	
against budget allocation.....	80–1
comparative	24–8
SES performance statements	195–8
performance indicators, see also financial indicators; health indicators	
corporate governance and	14
Episode Funding and.....	64
Mental Health Act 2007.....	253
strategic directions.....	8, 34–9, 44–52, 55–9, 62, 65–7, 72–4
Personal Health Record (PHR).....	33
personal records (FOI).....	245
personnel services, see employees; human resources	
Pharmaceutical Services Branch.....	258
pharmacy workforce	69
physical activity, obesity and	34
Picone, Prof. Debora.....	16, 195
plant, see property, plant and equipment	
pneumococcal disease vaccination	38
policy documents.....	199
Population Health Division	18–19
post balance date events, see after balance date events	
postcards.....	200
posters	200
postgraduate education and training	70
postnatal home visits.....	57
potentially avoidable deaths.....	32, 36–7
potentially avoidable hospital admissions	53, 55
potentially fatal illnesses, quality of life and	32
Predictable Surgery Program.....	40
Preferential Recruitment Program.....	71
pregnancy.....	40
Aboriginal health	54
antenatal visits	56
prenatal reporting.....	54–5
premature deaths, see potentially avoidable deaths	
prenatal reporting.....	54–5
prenatal visits	56
preventable conditions, see potentially avoidable	
prevention.....	30–9
Primary Health and Community Partnerships Branch.....	17
primary health care	53–9
principles.....	9
privacy management plan	193
private health care (mental health).....	256
private hospital activity levels	249
Private/Public Partnerships	117–120
procedures	41, 51
procurement, see purchasing policy	
procurement cards	205
profiles, see maps and profiles	
program statements.....	95, 137
programs and activities	107, 149
property, plant and equipment	110–12, 151–2
provisions.....	114–15, 154, 172
public health emergency preparedness	75, 76
public health outcome funding agreement	219
Public Health Real-time Emergency Department Surveillance System.....	75
public health system, see health system	
Public Health Units, Area Health Services	286
public hospital activity levels	250–1
public liability insurance	221, 222
public patient indemnity cover	222
publications.....	199–200
purchasing policy	63, 229

Q

Quality and Safety.....	20
quality of care	40–52
quality of life	32

R

re-admissions	50, 59
readiness for new risks and opportunities	75–7
receivables.....	108, 109, 150, 171
reconciliations	
cash flows.....	121, 156
intangible assets	112–13, 153
property, plant and equipment	111–12, 152
record keeping, FOI applications and	242–6
recruitment and retention of staff.....	68–9
recurrent expenditure.....	82
recycling.....	229
regional partnerships for health	60–2
registered health professionals, numbers of.....	252
regulations (subordinate legislation).....	240–1
related parties	173
Reportable Incident Review Committee	15, 234
reporting entity.....	96, 138
reports published	200
research, scientific and ethical review of	76
Resource and Recovery Service Program (RRSP).....	60
Resource Distribution Formula.....	65
resources, cost-benefit analysis	63–7
responsibilities, see organisational structure	
restricted assets.....	113, 153
result for the year (budget review)	122, 157
retention of staff	68–9
revenues, see also income, statements of.....	105–6, 148
program statements.....	945, 137
Rillstone, Michael	198
risk drinking, see alcohol use	
risk management activities.....	13, 14, 221–3
Risk Management and Audit Committee.....	13, 234
Risk Management Policy and Framework	75–7
risk taking, readiness for	75–7
Robinson, Dr Denise.....	18, 196
Royal North Shore Hospital rebuild.....	129
Rural Allied Health Scholarship Scheme.....	71
rural and remote areas	
drug and alcohol consultation services.....	61
NGO funding for rural doctor service.....	213
workforce	71
rural Area Health Services	271–9
Rural Critical Care Services	40

S

Safe Start program	57
safety, see occupational health and safety	
Safety Alert Broadcasting System (SABS).....	41
sale of goods and services.....	104–5, 147
SAM AOD Program	31
satisfaction with health services.....	40–1, 49
Save-a-mate Alcohol and Other Drug Program	31
scholarships for rural areas.....	71

- schools
- overweight and obesity30
 - School-Link33
 - VET in70
- scientific review of research76
- Senior Executive Advisory Board12, 234
- senior executive service194, 195
- Senior Management Board12
- sentinel events50
- separation rates, non casual staff72–3
- service commitments176
- service delivery226–36
- cost-benefit analysis63–7
- services and facilities258–79
- Shared Services Program2, 63, 230–233
- sick leave68, 74
- SIM, see Strategic Information Management (SIM)
- smoke free environments31
- SmokeCheck workshops31
- smoking30–1, 36
- South Eastern Sydney Illawarra AHS264–5
- South Western Sydney AHS, see Sydney South West AHS
- Special Commission of Inquiry into delivery of acute care services2–3
- specialist health services, from statutory health corporations11
- Specialist Mental Health Services for Older People (SMHSOP)54
- staff, see also employees68–74
- Aboriginal71, 74
 - career paths69–70
 - clinical73, 238–9
 - criminal record checking76
 - immunisation32
 - medical53, 54, 68–9, 252
 - mental health services70
 - new graduates69
 - OH&S32, 68, 72, 190
 - recruitment and retention of68–9
 - sick leave68, 74
 - staff targets66
 - training and development187–8
 - turnover of72–3
 - workforce flexibility69–70
 - workforce planning71
 - workforce re-entry69
- Staff Awards for Excellence188
- Standard Chart of Accounts64
- standards of service176
- State Health Plan29, 37
- State Plan2
- State Unique Patient Identifier (SUPID)232
- statement of recognised income and expense
- Department of Health90
 - HAC special purpose service entity166
 - Health Administration Corporation134
- Statewide Audit of Induction of Labour33
- Statewide Eyesight Preschooler Screening (StEPS)33
- Statewide Services Development Branch17
- statistics238–56
- statutory health corporations11
- Stimulant Treatment Program43
- Strategic Development Division16–18
- Strategic Direction 1:30–9
- Strategic Direction 2:40–52
- Strategic Direction 3:53–9
- Strategic Direction 4:60–2
- Strategic Direction 5:63–7
- Strategic Direction 6:68–74
- Strategic Direction 7:75–7
- Strategic Information Management (SIM)19, 63
- Strategic Procurement & Business Development Branch20
- stroke services55
- structure, see organisational structure
- subordinate legislation240
- subsidies, see grants and subsidies
- substance use, see also alcohol use; drug use, illicit
- children33
 - comorbidity43, 77
 - Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS)77
- suicide of patients58–9
- summary of compliance with financial directives94
- Suncorp Risk Services223
- surgery40, 48–9
- survival rates32
- sustainability229
- Sydney South West AHS266–7
- Sydney West AHS268–9
- T**
- Technology Shared Services (TSS)63, 230
- telecommunications228
- terms defined288
- The Children’s Hospital at Westmead285
- three year comparison224
- Tobacco Action Plan 2005-2009:36
- Tooth Smart Dental Program64
- Torres Strait Islander staff74
- Torres Strait Islanders, see Aboriginal health
- training, see education and training; learning and development
- Transport for Health program43
- Treasury Managed Fund222–3
- treatment services176
- triage treatment, within benchmark times44–5
- trust funds119, 157
- turnover of staff72–3
- U**
- unclaimed monies121, 157
- unplanned/unexpected re-admissions50
- users, see consumer participation; experiences within health system
- V**
- vaccination32
- vaccine preventable conditions32, 38–9
- values9
- vascular health213
- vision9
- vision screening programs33
- Visiting Medical Officers, indemnity cover222
- Vocational Education and Training in Schools70
- voluntary service provision121
- W**
- Waiting Time and Elective Patient Management Policy48–9
- waste reduction policy229
- Wentworth AHS, see Sydney West AHS
- Western Sydney AHS, see Sydney West AHS
- Whatever Info Guide42
- women’s health177–8
- Women’s Health Strategy177–8
- workers’ compensation190–1, 221
- workforce, see employees; staff
- Workforce Development and Leadership20
- workplace injuries68, 72
- Workplace Relations and Management Branch20
- Y**
- young people, see children’s health

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Contributors

Edited by: Annette Fitzpatrick

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Design and layout by: Rae Doble

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