1. The *Quarterly Public Hospitals Performance Report* provides an overview of Queensland public hospitals including: inpatient activity, elective surgery waiting times, emergency department presentations and staffing.

*Hospital Activity*

1. During the December quarter 2009, there were 228,203 admitted patient episodes of care, a 3.7% increase from the same quarter of 2008.

*Elective Surgery Performance*

1. During the December quarter 2009, 30,231 elective surgery patients were treated in Queensland public hospitals, a 3.8% increase on the 29,134 patients treated in the December quarter 2008.
2. In addition, the Surgery Connect program facilitated the treatment of 1,080 patients, resulting in a total of 31,311 elective surgery patients treated in Queensland during the December quarter 2009, a 2.3% increase on the same quarter of 2008.

*Emergency Department Performance*

1. During the December quarter 2009 there were 279,700 emergency department presentations in Queensland’s 27 largest hospitals, an increase of 8,891 presentations (3.3%) compared with the December 2008 quarter (270,809).
2. Despite the increase in demand, waiting times performance has remained stable in the December quarter 2009, compared with the December quarter 2009, with 65% of patients seen within the clinically recommended time.

*Access Block*

1. Access block performance - the proportion of emergency department patients, requiring admission to an inpatient bed, who are admitted within eight hours - improved during the December quarter 2009 (68% of patients admitted within 8 hours of arrival at the emergency department) compared with the December quarter 2008 (66%) and the September quarter 2009 (64%).

*Off-Stretcher times*

1. “Off-stretcher” time performance - the percent of patients transferred off an ambulance stretcher to the emergency department within 30 minutes - is included in the Quarterly Public Hospitals Performance Report - December quarter 2009 for the first time.
2. In the December quarter 2009, 89% of ambulance arrivals were transferred off-stretcher within 30 minutes, an improvement from 86% in the September quarter 2009, but a decrease in performance from 91% in the December quarter 2008.

*Radiation Treatment Times*

1. The Mater Centre and Princess Alexandra Hospital report an average delay to access radiation treatment within the maximum acceptable waiting time, for categories 2 and 3.
2. Whilst the average delay to access radiation treatment at Townsville Hospital remains above the maximum waiting time, Townsville Hospital has reported a decrease in delay to treatment compared with the September quarter 2009 for both category 2 (from 17 to 15 days) and category 3 (from 27 to 24 days).
3. The RBWH reported an increase in the average delay to treatment compared with the September quarter 2009 for categories 2 and 3 - from 8 to 19 days in category 2 and from 16 to 26 days in category 3, outside the acceptable delay for both categories.
4. Cabinet endorsed the release of the Quarterly Public Hospitals Performance Report – December Quarter 2009.
5. *Attachments*
* [Quarterly Public Hospitals Performance Report – December Quarter 2009](Attachments/December%20-%202009%20report.pdf)