

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

TRIM 88703

MEDIA RELEASE

17 October 2013

NATIONAL LAUNCH OF *VITAL SIGNS 2013: THE STATE OF SAFETY AND QUALITY IN AUSTRALIAN HEALTH CARE*

Professor Debora Picone, Chief Executive of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, today released *Vital Signs 2013: The State of Safety and Quality in Australian Health Care*.

Vital Signs 2013 provides an overview of a series of key topics in relation to the safety and quality of Australia's health care system.

Professor Picone said "*Vital Signs 2013* focuses on three important questions that members of the public may ask about their health care. Will my care be safe? Will I get the right care? Will I be a partner in my care?"

Each question is considered in its own section using examples of key health issues in Australia, such as medication safety and stroke care. These sections are followed by three case studies, which focus on the quality of care in some important clinical areas. These case studies present a detailed description and analysis of key quality issues that affect outcomes for patients.

"This is the first report on the state of safety and quality in Australian which is focused on the key concerns of the users of our health care system. It reflects the Commission's core focus of putting consumers of health at the centre of the system" said Professor Picone.

The Commission leads and coordinates improvements in safety and quality in health care across Australia. This includes developing national standards, providing advice about best practice, coordinating work in specific areas to improve outcomes for patients, and providing information, publications and resources for healthcare teams, healthcare providers, organisations and policy makers.

One of the Commission's core functions is to report on the state of safety and quality of the Australian health system. This helps people to understand the health system, what the system is doing to improve safety and quality and how successful these efforts are. Focus on these areas can also help to bring about change and improvement in experiences and outcomes for patients.

Vital Signs 2013 is the first release of what will be an annual publication. To read the *Vital Signs 2013* visit the Commission's website at www.safetyandquality.gov.au

To arrange an interview or for more information please contact Amy Winter, Manager, Communications on 02 9126 3605 or amy.winter@safetyandquality.gov.au

- ENDS -