Quarterly performance report

Quarter one 2015–16



Quarterly performance report—Quarter one 2015–16

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Introduction

This document contains our performance data for the first quarter of the 2015–16 financial year (Q1).

Over time, our quarterly data (along with our monthly performance reports) will identify trends which will inform our work in promoting improved health service delivery by health service providers and identifying systemic issues.

The Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) is committed to meeting timeframes, delivering high quality services and, as we continue to monitor our performance data, looking for areas of improvement, innovation and greater efficiency. In the period under review, increasing improvements in decision making timeframes and completed assessment timeframes can be attributed to new processes and procedures that were introduced in the previous quarter.

It is also important to note that our quarterly performance reporting highlights our commitment to transparency and accountability, and our desire to ensure Queenslanders have confidence in the management of health service complaints.

The OHO commenced operation on 1 July 2014 as Queensland's health service complaints management agency. On commencement, the OHO not only started receiving enquiries and health service complaints, but assumed responsibility for 289 matters previously managed by the Health Quality and Complaints Commission (HQCC). All matters transitioned from the HQCC were entered in the OHO's health service complaints management system and are integrated within this data.

In addition, during August 2014, the OHO began reviewing current Australian Health Practitioner Agency (AHPRA) matters to determine those that are most appropriately dealt with by the OHO, and those that will continue to be dealt with by AHPRA. This is in conjunction with the notification of new serious matters by AHPRA to the OHO for determination and action, as appropriate.

Data in this report are correct as at 13 October 2015. Figures within this report may differ from respective aggregate monthly totals published in previous reports due to necessary adjustments and alterations being made to historical data following the publication of previous reports.

Office contacts

Number of contacts

| Type of contact | July | | Aug | ust | Septe | mber | Q1 total | | |
|----------------------|------------|-------|--------|------------|--------|------------|----------|--------|--|
| | Number % | | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Complaint | 260 | 40.63 | 251 | 38.26 | 370 | 49.73 | 1114 | 53.76 | |
| Enquiry | 256 | 40.00 | 310 | 47.26 | 350 | 47.04 | 939 | 45.32 | |
| Yet to be classified | 124 | 19.38 | 95 | 14.48 | 24 | 3.23 | 19 | 0.92 | |
| Total | 640 100.00 | | 656 | 656 100.00 | | 744 100.00 | | 100.00 | |

The total for the quarter differs from the total monthly figures due to matters 'yet to be classified' being classified as either a complaint or enquiry during the reporting period. Similarly, contacts that are 'yet to be classified' at the time of running this report will be counted as complaints or enquiries in future reporting.

Matters that are 'yet to be classified' are contacts in which not enough information was provided in the first instance to allow for a determination, and additional information is being sought. They can also be matters that came in just before the end of the reporting period and were still being processed.

The number of complaint contacts will not equal the number of decisions made in the table below.

Type of complaints

| Type of complaints | July | | Aug | just | Septe | mber | Q1 total | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Health consumer | 197 | 75.77 | 196 | 78.09 | 287 | 77.57 | 867 | 77.83 | |
| Mandatory notification | 39 | 15.00 | 28 | 11.16 | 59 | 15.95 | 142 | 12.75 | |
| Voluntary notification | 13 | 5.00 | 6 | 2.39 | 13 | 3.51 | 50 | 4.49 | |
| Self-notification | 8 | 3.08 | 9 | 3.59 | 8 | 2.16 | 30 | 2.69 | |
| Referral | 3 | 1.15 | 12 | 4.78 | 3 | 0.81 | 25 | 2.24 | |
| Total | 260 | 100.00 | 251 | 100.00 | 370 | 100.00 | 1114 | 100.00 | |

Notifications are made by health service providers, as required in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Queensland). Referrals can be received from both government and non-government agencies. The total for the quarter differs from the total monthly figures due to matters 'yet to be classified' being classified as either a complaint or enquiry during the reporting period. Similarly, contacts that are 'yet to be classified' at the time of running this report will be counted as complaints or enquiries in future reporting.

Decisions

Number of decisions made

| Number of decisions made | July | | Aug | ust | Septe | mber | Q1 total | | |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|--------|----------|------------|-------|----------|--------|--|
| | Number % | | Number | % Number | | % | Number | % | |
| Accepted | 311 | 67.03 | 269 | 66.92 | 364 | 73.83 | 944 | 78.15 | |
| Not accepted | 80 | 17.24 | 73 | 18.16 | 70 | 14.20 | 223 | 18.46 | |
| Decision pending | 73 15.73 | | 60 | 14.93 | 59 | 11.97 | 41 | 3.39 | |
| Total | 464 100.00 | | 402 | 100.00 | 493 100.00 | | 1208 | 100.00 | |

The total for the quarter differs from the total monthly figures due to 'decision pending' matters being either accepted, not accepted or 'closed—no further action' during the reporting period. Similarly, matters that are 'decision pending' at the time of running this report will be counted as accepted or not accepted in future reporting.

'Closed—no further action' relates to matters deemed to be out of jurisdiction for the OHO and are not included in our reporting data. 'Decision pending' relates to matters where more information is required before deciding whether to accept or not accept a complaint, or because a matter came in just before the end of the reporting period and is still to be processed.

Decisions made within seven days

The first quarter continued to see the OHO receive a high number of contacts. These high contact volumes have impacted on the ability to process matters within the seven day timeframe.

Additional staffing resources introduced in Q4 2014–15, has significantly increased the number of decisions made within the legislative timeframe towards the end of this reporting period. It is expected that these figures will continue to improve in quarter two 2015–16.

| Decision made | July | | Aug | ust | Septe | mber | Q1 total | | |
|---------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--|
| | Number % | | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Yes | 147 | 37.60 | 128 | 37.43 | 279 | 64.29 | 554 | 47.47 | |
| No | 244 | 62.40 | 214 | 62.57 | 155 | 35.71 | 613 | 52.53 | |
| Total | 391 | 100.00 | 342 | 100.00 | 434 | 100.00 | 1167 | 100.00 | |

Health service complaints profile

Main issues raised in complaints

| Issue | Ju | ıly | Auç | just | Septe | ember | Q1 1 | total |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Access | 8 | 2.28 | 4 | 2.02 | 0 | 0.00 | 15 | 1.64 |
| Communication/information | 45 | 12.82 | 19 | 9.60 | 27 | 12.44 | 112 | 12.25 |
| Consent | 6 | 1.71 | 3 | 1.52 | 3 | 1.38 | 14 | 1.53 |
| Discharge/transfer arrangements | 15 | 4.27 | 14 | 7.07 | 1 | 0.46 | 37 | 4.05 |
| Environment/management of facilities | 6 | 1.71 | 4 | 2.02 | 1 | 0.46 | 14 | 1.53 |
| Fees/cost | 4 | 1.14 | 2 | 1.01 | 1 | 0.46 | 8 | 0.88 |
| Grievance processes | 8 | 2.28 | 2 | 1.01 | 1 | 0.46 | 14 | 1.53 |
| Medical records | 14 | 3.99 | 12 | 6.06 | 13 | 5.99 | 44 | 4.81 |
| Medication | 18 | 5.13 | 20 | 10.10 | 17 | 7.83 | 66 | 7.22 |
| Professional conduct | 44 | 12.54 | 28 | 14.14 | 25 | 11.52 | 102 | 11.16 |
| Professional health | 8 | 2.28 | 4 | 2.02 | 1 | 0.46 | 13 | 1.42 |
| Professional performance | 173 | 49.29 | 84 | 42.42 | 123 | 56.68 | 466 | 50.98 |
| Reports/certificates | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 0.51 | 4 | 1.84 | 6 | 0.66 |
| Treatment | 2 | 0.57 | 1 | 0.51 | 0 | 0.00 | 3 | 0.33 |
| Total | 351 | 100.00 | 198 | 100.00 | 217 | 100.00 | 914 | 100.00 |

These figures are based on complaints that completed the assessment process during the quarter. Basing figures on completed assessments produces accurate reporting of the type(s) of issues identified, as all relevant details of a matter have been identified at the time an assessment is completed. Please note, there can be multiple issues identified within a single complaint.



Number and type of complaints by health practitioner

| Practitioner type | Access | Communication and information | Consent | Discharge/ transfer | Environment/ management | Enquiry service | Fees and costs | Grievance process | Medical records | Medication | Professional conduct | Professional health | Professional performance | Reports/ certificates | Treatment | Total |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|---------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| | | | | arrangements | of facility | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alternative care | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| Chinese medicine | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chiropractor | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | - | 4 | - | - | 8 |
| Dentistry | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 2 | - | 22 | - | - | 31 |
| Emergency care | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 6 | - | - | 11 |
| General medical | - | 27 | 3 | 4 | - | - | 2 | 2 | 13 | 28 | 36 | 4 | 115 | 2 | 2 | 238 |
| Medical radiation | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 3 |
| Medical specialty | - | 16 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 7 | - | 51 | 1 | - | 84 |
| Nursing | 1 | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 11 | 21 | 4 | 12 | - | - | 55 |
| Occupational therapy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Optometry | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Osteopathy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 8 | 2 | 10 | - | - | 25 |
| Pathology | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pharmacy | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Physiotherapy | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 4 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 10 |
| Podiatry | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Psychology | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | - | 6 | 2 | 7 | - | - | 21 |
| Speech pathology | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Surgical | - | 8 | 3 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 6 | - | 4 | - | 35 | - | - | 59 |
| Not yet known | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Total | 2 | 66 | 9 | 10 | 2 | - | 5 | 4 | 31 | 46 | 94 | 13 | 270 | 4 | 2 | 558 |

These figures are based on complaints that completed the assessment process during the quarter. Basing figures on completed assessments produces accurate reporting of the type(s) of issues identified, as all relevant details of a matter have been identified at the time an assessment is completed. Please note, there can be multiple issues identified within a single complaint.

Number and type of complaints by health service organisation

| Organisation type | Access | Communication and information | Consent | Discharge/ transfer arrangements | Environment/ management of facility | Enquiry service | Fees and costs | Grievance process | Medical records | Medication | Professional conduct | Professional health | Professional performance | Reports/ certificates | Treatment | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|---------|--|---|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Aged care facility | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 | - | - | 8 |
| Allied health service | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | 4 |
| Ambulance service | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Community health service | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| Correctional facility | 3 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | 6 | - | - | 16 |
| Dental service | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | 5 |
| Health service district | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | 9 |
| Laboratory service | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| Licensed Day Hospital | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Licensed private hospital | - | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 18 | 1 | - | 30 |
| Medical centre | 4 | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 3 | - | - | 17 |
| Mental health service | - | 3 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | 9 | - | - | 17 |
| Nursing service | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other government department | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other support service | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Pharmaceutical service | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| Public health service | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Public hospital | 2 | 33 | 2 | 22 | 3 | - | 1 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 2 | - | 142 | - | 1 | 233 |
| Residential care service | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Specialised health service | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | 4 |
| Total | 13 | 46 | 5 | 27 | 12 | - | 3 | 10 | 13 | 20 | 8 | - | 196 | 2 | 1 | 356 |

These figures are based on complaints that completed the assessment process during the quarter. Basing figures on completed assessments produces accurate reporting of the type(s) of issues identified, as all relevant details of a matter have been identified at the time an assessment is completed. Please note, there can be multiple issues identified within a single complaint.

Assessment

Assessments started and completed

| Assessments this quarter | July | August | September | Q1 total |
|--------------------------|------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Assessments started | 150 | 112 | 151 | 413 |
| Assessments completed | 158 | 85 | 157 | 400 |

Completed assessment timeframes

As with the seven-day decision-making timeframe, implementation of more refined assessment processes and system improvements has resulted in a larger number of completed assessments. Completion of 400 assessments older than 60 days is anticipated to increase capacity for new assessments to be completed within the 30 and 60 day timeframes in Q2 2015–16.

| Assessment timeframe | July | | Aug | ust | Septe | mber | Q1 total | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--|
| | Number % | | mber % Number % Numb | | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Within 30 days | 29 | 18.35 | 18 | 21.18 | 19 | 12.10 | 66 | 16.50 | |
| Within 60 days* | 26 | 16.46 | 18 | 21.18 | 30 | 19.11 | 74 | 18.50 | |
| Greater than 60 days** | 103 | 65.19 | 49 | 57.65 | 108 | 68.79 | 260 | 65.00 | |
| Total | 158 | 100.00 | 85 | 100.00 | 157 | 100.00 | 400 | 100.00 | |

*Assessments are able to be completed within 60 days when granted an extension of 30 days as a result of legislated requirements being met. Of the 74 assessments completed within 60 days, 28 matters were eligible for and received an approved extension.

**260 matters were completed in more than 60 days due to high levels of assessment matters, the complexity of certain matters, and delays in receiving information from parties and in sourcing the necessary independent clinical advice required to appropriately assess the matters.



Assessment decisions

| Type of relevant action | Ju | ly | Aug | ust | Septe | mber | Q1 total | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Local resolution | 10 | 6.29 | 8 | 8.42 | 14 | 8.48 | 32 | 7.64 |
| Conciliation | 11 | 6.92 | 7 | 7.37 | 9 | 5.45 | 27 | 6.44 |
| Investigation | 3 | 1.89 | 7 | 7.37 | 3 | 1.82 | 13 | 3.10 |
| Referred to AHPRA and the national boards | 60 | 37.74 | 25 | 26.32 | 57** | 34.55 | 142 | 33.89 |
| Referral to another entity | 4 | 2.52 | 6 | 6.32 | 9** | 5.45 | 19 | 4.53 |
| Immediate registration action* | 1 | 0.63 | 2 | 2.11 | 0** | 0.00 | 3 | 0.72 |
| Interim prohibition order* | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 1.05 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 0.24 |
| No further action | 70 | 44.03 | 39 | 41.05 | 73 | 44.24 | 182 | 43.44 |
| Total | 159 | 100.00 | 95 | 100.00 | 165 | 100.00 | 419 | 100.00 |

Total assessment decisions will not equal the total number of assessments (in previous tables), as a single assessment can result in multiple relevant actions.

The figures for the type of relevant action decided in the assessment stage may not correspond with totals for respective relevant actions (e.g. local resolution, conciliation, investigation etc.) due to the time between a decision being made and an action taken crossing over different reporting periods.

*Immediate action assessment decision figures may not align with the immediate action figures later in the report due to immediate actions decisions being made outside of the assessment process.

**These figures were amended on 3 November 2015 to replace the following incorrect data: Referred to AHPRA and the national boards 0; Referral to another entity 57; Immediate registration action 9. Corresponding Q1 totals have also been updated.



Local resolution

Local resolutions started and completed

| Local resolutions this quarter | July | August | September | Q1 total |
|--------------------------------|------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Local resolutions started | 127 | 90 | 122 | 339 |
| Local resolutions completed | 91 | 110 | 102 | 303 |

The number of local resolutions started in the quarter may not directly match the number of assessment decisions to undertake local resolution, due to the time between a decision being made and an action taken crossing over different reporting periods.

Completed local resolution timeframes

| Local resolution timeframes | July | | August | | September | | Q1 total | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Within 30 days | 81 | 89.01 | 93 | 84.55 | 85 | 83.33 | 259 | 85.48 |
| Within 60 days* | 10 | 10.99 | 16 | 14.55 | 14 | 13.73 | 40 | 13.20 |
| Greater than 60 days** | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 0.91 | 3 | 2.94 | 4 | 1.32 |
| Total | 91 | 100.00 | 110 | 100.00 | 102 | 100.00 | 303 | 100.00 |

*Local resolutions are able to be completed within 60 days when granted an extension of 30 days as a result of legislated requirements being met. Of the 40 local resolutions completed within 60 days, 33 were eligible for and received an approved extension.

**The four matters completed in more than 60 days were due to a delay in sourcing and obtaining independent clinical advice.

Local resolution outcomes

| Local resolution outcomes | July | | August | | September | | Q1 total | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Resolution reached | 84 | 92.31 | 103 | 93.64 | 88 | 86.27 | 275 | 90.76 |
| No resolution reached | 5 | 5.49 | 5 | 4.55 | 8 | 7.84 | 18 | 5.94 |
| Complaint withdrawn* | 2 | 2.20 | 2 | 1.82 | 6 | 5.88 | 10 | 3.30 |
| Total | 91 | 100.00 | 110 | 100.00 | 102 | 100.00 | 303 | 100.00 |

*Complainants can choose to withdraw their complaint at any stage during local resolution.

Decisions for matters that were not resolved

| Type of relevant action | July | | August | | September | | Q1 total | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Conciliation | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 12.50 | 1 | 5.56 |
| Investigation | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Referred to AHPRA and the national boards | 1 | 20.00 | 3 | 60.00 | 1 | 12.50 | 5 | 27.78 |
| Referral to another entity | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Immediate action | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| No further action | 4 | 80.00 | 2 | 40.00 | 6 | 75.00 | 12 | 66.67 |
| Total | 5 | 100.00 | 5 | 100.00 | 8 | 100.00 | 18 | 100.00 |

Conciliation Conciliations started and closed

| Conciliations this quarter | July | August | September | Q1 total |
|----------------------------|------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Conciliations started | 13 | 8 | 10 | 31 |
| Conciliations closed | 5 | 1 | 10 | 16 |

The number of conciliations started in the reporting period may not directly match the number of assessment decisions to undertake conciliation, due to the time between a decision being made and an action taken crossing over different reporting periods.

Conciliations started includes all matters (including matters where agreement to participate has or has not been reached or the decision is pending) that entered the conciliation workflow during the reporting period following the OHO assessing them as being suitable for conciliation. Similarly, conciliations closed are all matters that were closed during the reporting period, whether due to parties not agreeing to participate or the matter being closed after completing the conciliation process. Closed conciliations differ from completed conciliations below, as completed conciliations only include matters where both parties agreed to participate and the conciliation process was completed.

Agreement to participate in conciliation

| Agreement to participate | July | August | September | Q1 total |
|---|------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Party/ies agreed to participate* | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| Party/ies did not agree to participate* | 2 | 0 | 5 | 7 |
| Decisions pending at close of quarter** | 8 | 16 | 18 | 18 |

*Once the decision is made to attempt conciliation, both parties must agree to participate in the process. If either one, or both, of the parties do not agree, the conciliation process does not commence and the matter is closed.

**Decisions pending includes matters where parties are still deciding whether to participate in conciliation at the end of the reporting period, as well as matters that have been referred to a national board and will not commence conciliation until the national board concludes its processes.

Completed conciliation timeframes

| Conciliations completed | July | | August | | September | | Q1 total | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| 0–3 months | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 40.00 | 2 | 22.22 |
| 3–6 months | 3 | 100.00 | 1 | 100.00 | 1 | 20.00 | 5 | 55.56 |
| 6–9 months | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 40.00 | 2 | 22.22 |
| 9–12 months | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 12+ months | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total | 3 | 100.00 | 1 | 100.00 | 5 | 100.00 | 9 | 100.00 |

Completed conciliation outcomes

| Conciliation outcomes | July | | August | | September | | Q1 total | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Successful | 2 | 66.67 | 1 | 100.00 | 5 | 100 | 8 | 88.89 |
| Not successful | 1 | 33.33 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11.11 |
| Ended early | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total | 3 | 100.00 | 1 | 100.00 | 5 | 100.00 | 9 | 100.00 |

The above data relates to matters where parties agreed to participate in conciliation. After agreeing, the conciliation process was completed with the matter either being conciliated or not conciliated (or in rare instances, the Health Ombudsman ending it). Completed conciliations differ from closed conciliations (in the table above) as they only relate to matters where parties agreed to participate and the conciliation process was completed.

Decisions for conciliations that were not successful

| Type of relevant action | July | | August | | September | | Q1 total | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Local resolution | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Investigation | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Referred to AHPRA and the national boards | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Referral to another entity | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Immediate action | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| No further action | 1 | 100.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1 | 100.00 | 0 | 100.00 | 0 | 100.00 | 1 | 100.00 |

Open conciliation timeframes

| Conciliations open | July | | Aug | ust | September | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | |
| 0–3 months | 21 | 75.00 | 26 | 74.29 | 27 | 77.14 | |
| 3–6 months | 6 | 21.43 | 8 | 22.86 | 7 | 20.00 | |
| 6–9 months | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | |
| 9–12 months | 1 | 3.57 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | |
| 12+ months | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 2.86 | 1 | 2.86 | |
| Total | 28 | 100.00 | 35 | 100.00 | 35 | 100.00 | |

Investigation

Investigations started and closed

| Investigations this quarter | July | August | September | Q4 total |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Investigations started | 22 | 18 | 8 | 48 |
| Investigations closed | 8 | 26 | 19 | 53 |

The number of investigations started in the reporting period may not match the number of assessment decisions to undertake investigation due to the time between a decision being made and an action taken crossing over different reporting periods, or as a result of investigations being started via other processes (e.g. own-motion investigation).

Closed investigation timeframes

| Investigations closed | July | | August | | September | | Q1 total | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| 0–3 months | 0 | 0.00 | 3 | 11.54 | 1 | 5.26 | 4 | 7.55 |
| 3–6 months | 0 | 0.00 | 3 | 11.54 | 2 | 10.53 | 5 | 9.43 |
| 6–9 months | 3 | 37.50 | 1 | 3.85 | 2 | 10.53 | 6 | 11.32 |
| 9–12 months | 3 | 37.50 | 8 | 30.77 | 2 | 10.53 | 13 | 24.53 |
| 12+ months | 2 | 25.00 | 11 | 42.31 | 12 | 63.16 | 25 | 47.17 |
| Total | 8 | 100.00 | 26 | 100.00 | 19 | 100.00 | 53 | 100.00 |

Closed investigation outcome

| Closed investigation outcome | July | August | September | Q1 total |
|--|------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Referred to Director of Proceedings | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Report | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Referred to AHPRA | 3 | 5 | 6 | 14 |
| Referred to another agency | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| No further action | 2 | 21 | 11 | 34 |

Open investigation categories

| Investigation category | July | August | September |
|--------------------------|------|--------|-----------|
| Health service complaint | 247 | 234 | 222 |
| Systemic issue | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Another matter* | 28 | 30 | 29 |

*Matters brought to the Health Ombudsman's attention by means other than through a health service complaint or notification.

Open investigation timeframes

| Investigations open | July | | Aug | ust | September | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | |
| 0–3 months | 59 | 21.45 | 60 | 22.73 | 37 | 14.74 | |
| 3–6 months | 50 | 18.18 | 48 | 18.18 | 63 | 25.10 | |
| 6–9 months | 43 | 15.64 | 38 | 14.39 | 31 | 12.35 | |
| 9–12 months | 47 | 17.09 | 27 | 10.23 | 34 | 13.55 | |
| 12+ months* | 76 | 27.64 | 91 | 34.47 | 86 | 34.26 | |
| Total | 275 | 100.00 | 264 | 100.00 | 251 | 100.00 | |

*All investigations that have been open for more than 12 months are published on our investigations register, available on our website

Immediate action

Show cause notices

There were two show cause notice issued during the quarter.

As outlined in the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*, upon receipt of a show cause notice, a health service provider is invited to make a submission within a stated period of time. The Health Ombudsman will then consider the submission before deciding whether to take immediate action against the provider.

Immediate registration action

There were two immediate registration actions taken during the quarter:

- A registered nurse was suspended for issues relating to conduct (August).
- A registered dentist had conditions imposed on their registration for issues relating to conduct and performance (September).

The Health Ombudsman can take immediate action against both registered and non-registered health practitioners if the Health Ombudsman reasonably believes the practitioner poses a serious risk to the health and safety of the public.

For registered health practitioners, the Health Ombudsman can temporarily suspend or impose conditions on registration, and for unregistered practitioners, temporarily restrict or prohibit a practitioner from providing a particular health service.

Prohibition orders

The Health Ombudsman issued four prohibition orders during the quarter. The details can be found on the prohibition order register on the OHO website <u>www.oho.qld.gov.au</u>.

The Health Ombudsman can issue an interim prohibition order if a non-registered health practitioner's health, conduct or performance means they pose a serious risk to people, and immediate action is necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. An interim prohibition order can *prohibit* or *restrict* a health practitioner from providing any health service, or a specific health service.

The Health Ombudsman can also enforce a prohibition order, or an interim prohibition order, issued in another state or territory where that interstate prohibition order corresponds (or substantially corresponds) to the type of prohibition order that can be made in Queensland.

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Notifications from AHPRA

In addition to the transitional matters above, AHPRA notified the Health Ombudsman of 12 serious matters—as prescribed under s193 of the National Law—during the quarter.

Of these matters, the Health Ombudsman:

- requested three be referred to the OHO—s193(2)(a) National Law
- asked the national board to continue to deal with nine matters—s193(2)(b) National Law

One further matter has been requested from AHPRA and has been referred by agreement under s193A(4) of the National Law.

Number of practitioners referred to AHPRA by practitioner type

| Practitioner type | Number |
|--|--------|
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health | 1 |
| Chinese medicine | 4 |
| Chiropractic | 5 |
| Dental | 37 |
| Medical | 222 |
| Medical radiation | 1 |
| Nursing and midwifery | 129 |
| Occupational therapy | 2 |
| Optometry | 3 |
| Osteopathy | 1 |
| Pharmacy | 18 |
| Physiotherapy | 5 |
| Podiatry | 1 |
| Psychology | 25 |
| Unregistered practitioner | 3 |
| Total | 457 |

Number of issues referred to AHPRA by practitioner type

| Registered practitioner type | Access | Communication and information | Consent | Discharge/ transfer arrangements | Environment/ management of facility | Enquiry service | Fees and costs | Grievance process | Medical records | Medication | Professional conduct | Professional health | Professional performance | Reports/ certificates | Treatment | Total |
|--|--------|----------------------------------|---------|--|---|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Chinese medicine | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Chiropractic | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 5 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 9 |
| Dental | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 31 | - | - | 49 |
| Medical | - | 29 | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 21 | 30 | 45 | 19 | 160 | 3 | 2 | 316 |
| Medical student | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Medical radiation | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Nursing and midwifery | 1 | 6 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 15 | 63 | 46 | 29 | 1 | - | 163 |
| Nursing student | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Occupational therapy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Optometry | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Osteopathy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Other | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pathology | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pharmacy | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 18 |
| Physiotherapy | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 3 | - | 11 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 21 |
| Podiatry | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Psychology | - | 11 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 5 | - | 15 | 7 | 6 | - | - | 45 |
| Unregistered practitioner | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| Total | 1 | 52 | 2 | 3 | 5 | - | 1 | 2 | 35 | 53 | 160 | 85 | 233 | 4 | 2 | 638 |

Demographics

The following demographic data is based on matters that have completed the assessment process. Basing figures on completed assessments produces accurate reporting, as all relevant details of a matter have been identified.

Unless otherwise specified, data is based on healthcare consumers, not the complainant, as the complainant in a matter may not be the consumer of the health service. Matters where the healthcare consumer is an organisation are not included in these figures.

Gender

| Gender | Number | Percentage |
|---------|--------|------------|
| Female | 232 | 59.18 |
| Male | 145 | 36.99 |
| Unknown | 15 | 3.83 |
| Total | 392 | 100.00 |

Age

| Age | Number | Percentage |
|--------------------|--------|------------|
| Less than 18 | 30 | 7.63 |
| 18–24 years | 22 | 5.60 |
| 25–34 years | 55 | 13.99 |
| 35–44 years | 75 | 19.08 |
| 45–54 years | 51 | 12.98 |
| 55–64 years | 51 | 12.98 |
| 65–74 years | 48 | 12.21 |
| More than 75 years | 41 | 10.43 |
| Unknown* | 20 | 5.09 |

*Age not recorded or not provided for a particular matter.

Location of healthcare consumers

| Location of healthcare consumers | Number | Percentage |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Brisbane | 159 | 40.46 |
| Central West | 1 | 0.25 |
| Darling Downs | 20 | 5.09 |
| Far North | 14 | 3.56 |
| Fitzroy | 17 | 4.33 |
| Gold Coast | 69 | 17.56 |
| Mackay | 6 | 1.53 |
| North West | 3 | 0.76 |
| Northern | 12 | 3.05 |
| South West | 0 | 0.00 |
| Sunshine Coast | 24 | 6.11 |
| West Moreton | 2 | 0.51 |
| Wide Bay-Burnett | 35 | 8.91 |
| Outside Queensland | 21 | 5.34 |
| Unknown | 10 | 2.54 |

The above data is based on health consumer location.

Location of health service providers

| Location of health service providers | Number | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Brisbane | 247 | 47.50 |
| Central West | 1 | 0.19 |
| Darling Downs | 25 | 4.81 |
| Far North | 26 | 5.00 |
| Fitzroy | 24 | 4.62 |
| Gold Coast | 85 | 16.35 |
| Mackay | 7 | 1.35 |
| North West | 0 | 0.00 |
| Northern | 17 | 3.27 |
| South West | 1 | 0.19 |
| Sunshine Coast | 25 | 4.81 |
| West Moreton | 4 | 0.77 |
| Wide Bay-Burnett | 39 | 7.50 |
| Outside Queensland* | 19 | 3.65 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0.00 |

The above data is based on health service provider location.

*Health service provider location is taken from the primary address of the provider recorded in the OHO complaints management system. Complaints can be made about health service providers from other states who have provided health services in Queensland. This could include locums travelling to Queensland from interstate or providers who previously lived in Queensland providing services but have since moved interstate (as the OHO can deal with complaints up to two years old).





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