

Australasian Health Facility Guidelines for Mental Health Units

Private Hospital Sector report

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Private Hospital Sector Mental Health facilities

- 2006-2007 statistics (ABS) combine Acute and Psychiatric hospitals
- 557 Private Hospitals in Australia
- ↑ 1.8% of total number
- ↑ 1.7% number of available beds and chairs from 26,227 in 05/06 to 26,678 in 06/07
- Total patient separations increased from 4.3% (2.9million in 05/06 to 3.1million in 06/07)
- Private hospitals provided 7.7million days of hospitalisation in 06/07

Private Mental Health Stand alone hospitals

- 25 Specialist private Mental health facilities located across Australia.
- Plus, mental Health wards/units contained within a further 21 med/surg private hospitals



Private Mental Health facility beds

- Total beds = 1700
 - Together these hospitals treated 124,000 patients in 2006-2007.
 - 70% of all sameday mental health services
 - 43% of all hospital based psychiatry services
 - 93% of all sameday alcohol disorder and dependence services
- (calculated from latest data from AIHW- Australian Hospital statistics 2006-07)



Unlike many other areas of health care, private mental health facilities do not provide a parallel service to the public sector. Rather the private sector provides effective and necessary care to a large group of patients who are unable to be cared for in public mental health services.



Priorities

- **Patient Safety** is paramount
- **Patient Expectations** major consideration with cost of private health cover
- **Space** proven to be beneficial in recovery
- **Financial considerations**
reliant on profit to maintain and improve facilities

Inconsistencies between States

- Aim for a National set of guidelines that incorporate different State licensing requirements
- State Govt may be at odds with the ACHS and Safety & Quality Commission.

