

# Mackay Hospital and Health Service Obstetrics and Gynaecology Services Health Service Investigation

## Terms of Reference

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Health Service Investigation (investigation) is to investigate and report on matters relating to the management, administration and delivery of public sector health services, specifically as they relate to Mackay Hospital and Health Service's (MHHS) obstetrics and gynaecology services (services).

### 2. Appointment

- 2.1. Under section 190(2) of the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* (Qld) (HHBA), following the Health Service Chief Executive's assessment that they are qualified for the appointment because they each have the necessary expertise and experience, the Health Service Investigators named in Section 6 of these Terms of Reference (Investigators) are appointed to conduct this Investigation.
- 2.2. The Investigators must investigate the matters set out in Section 4 of these Terms of Reference and prepare an Investigation Report in accordance with section 199 of the HHBA. The Investigators are to work as a team with an appropriate division of tasks as they consider appropriate or as otherwise determined by the investigator designated herein for that purpose as the lead investigator.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. On 12 October 2021 the Health Service Chief Executive invited community feedback about obstetrics and gynaecology services in MHHS (invitation).

### 4. Scope of the Investigation

- 4.1. Review all:
- community feedback including feedback from consumers and staff received in response to the invitation and identify feedback which relates to the provision of the services; and
  - incidents and complaints recorded in MHHS' RiskMan information system from 1 July 2019 and 31 October 2021 relating to the services; and
  - other grouped data, whether referable to individual clinicians or the service as a whole, recorded by MHHS concerning safety and quality of the services in the period between 1 July 2019 and 31 October 2021.



- 4.2. From such review, identify any trends indicating any inadequacies in the safety and quality of the services in the period covered by the above review, including by reference to rates of complications.
- 4.3. Identify how, if at all, in the provision of the services over the said time MHHS did not acceptably comply with applicable standards or guidelines, and/or did not follow accepted practices for services of this kind, in a HHS like MHHS, that have contributed to the indicated inadequacies.
- 4.4. Identify any other factors pertaining to the provision of the services that have contributed to the indicated inadequacies which can and should be addressed.
- 4.5. In considering the above, have reference to the training program for trainees and non-accredited registrars in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at MHHS from 1 July 2019 to 31 October 2021, including by consulting with the Consultants and trainees and non-accredited registrars who have participated in it, where possible, to identify any contribution to issues revealed in your consideration of 4.2 – 4.4 above.
- 4.6. Make findings and recommendations in the Investigation Report in respect of each of the matters outlined in Sections 4.1 – 4.5 and identify any opportunities to improve the safety and quality of provision of the services in those respects.
- 4.7. If the Investigators identify that a document or information cannot be obtained which, if available, may materially affect their findings, this should be identified in the Investigation Report.

## 5. Powers of the Investigators

- 5.1. The Investigators have all of the powers given under section 194 of the HHBA including to enter a public sector health service facility when it is open and to access, copy or take extracts from any document in the possession or control of MHHS relevant to this Investigation and which may assist the Investigation. This authority includes documents that contain ‘confidential information’ as defined in the HHBA, noting and complying with the confidentiality obligations as an Investigator pursuant to section 197 of the HHBA, and Part 7 of the HHBA, as it applies.
- 5.2. The Investigators must make every reasonable effort to also obtain any other information or documentation that is relevant to the Investigation. The Investigators may, in accordance with section 197(3)(a) of the HHBA, disclose information given to the Investigators during the Investigation to someone else to the extent necessary to perform the Investigators’ functions under, or in relation to, the HHBA.

## 6. Membership

Dr Greg Duncombe

Professor Edward Weaver

Professor Mary Sidebotham

Leah Hardiman



## Endorsement

These Terms of Reference are approved by:



Lisa Davies Jones

Health Service Chief Executive

Mackay Hospital and Health Service

28 October 2021

