1. Following concerns raised in the Commonwealth House of Representatives about the employment of Dr Abdalla Khalafalla as a specialist at Mackay Base Hospital from May 2004 to August 2006, the Minister for Health directed the Health Quality and Complaints Commission (HQCC) to investigate the quality of health services at Mackay Base Hospital.
2. All recommendations of the HQCC Report are supported by the Department of Health. A process of clinical audit and follow up of Dr Khalafalla’s patients is well advanced.
3. The Report recommends that the Queensland Government pursue an Australia-wide reporting system for tracking the performance of registered health professionals and consider statutory reform to require information about unsatisfactory periods of supervision and any reduction of clinical privileges related to special purpose registration be transferred between relevant employers, specialist colleges and all state and territory registration boards. The Report acknowledges that this would require negotiation with other jurisdictions. The Department of Health supports this recommendation, noting that Queensland lacks sufficient jurisdiction to implement these reforms unilaterally.
4. The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme being implemented collectively by Health Ministers provides an appropriate vehicle for cross-jurisdictional implementation of information sharing systems *for all occupational groups covered by the scheme.* Queensland will be the lead jurisdiction in passing the first tranche of substantive legislation for the national scheme later in 2008.
5. Cabinet noted the Health Quality and Complaints Commission Report about the quality of health services at Mackay Base Hospital.
6. Cabinet approved the public release of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission Report and tabling in the Legislative assembly by the Minister for Health.
7. *Attachments:*
* [Health Quality and Complaints Commission Report about the quality of health services at Mackay Base Hospital](Attachments/HQCC%20report%20on%20Mackay%20Hospital.pdf)