

# #PatientsOverPolitics Survey Findings

## Current state of healthcare in Queensland

	SURVEY QUESTION	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
<b>1</b>	<b>Overall, how would you rate the State Government's delivery of patient health care across the board?</b>		
	Excellent – all patients have access to quality care in reasonable time frames	30	4
	Above average, though there's been a decline in some areas of patient care in the past five years	235	35
	Pass – most patients receive the bare minimum of care	222	33
	Poor – some patients can't access services at all or have to wait an unreasonably long time	150	22
	Fail – Queenslanders deserve better	40	6
<b>2</b>	<b>What is your top concern regarding the current delivery of public health care?</b>		
	Role substitution, ie practitioners performing the tasks of doctors	215	32
	Inefficient administration or management by Qld Health	176	26
	Insufficient mental health services	77	11
	Reduced funding for specialists in public health system	63	9
	Diminished services in regional and rural areas	41	6
	Inadequate resourcing of end-of-life care	28	4
	Lack of funding for specialists to work in rural and regional hospitals	24	3.5
	Nothing worthy of note	23	3
	Old, run-down or non-existent equipment	17	2.5
	Failure to successfully tackle the obesity crisis	16	2

	SURVEY QUESTION	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
<b>3</b>	<b>What do you believe is the main cause of your concerns regarding the delivery of public health care?</b>		
	The appointment of bureaucrats to senior positions in Qld Health rather than people with medical knowledge and experience	238	35
	A public health agenda that places cost-cutting above quality frontline health care	213	31
	Health care decisions based on short term political gain rather than long term patient welfare	119	18
	Inadequate funding/distribution of funding	82	12
	Failure to pay private doctors reasonable rates to work in public hospitals	25	4
<b>4</b>	<b>What do you see as the greatest risk to patients if the current health system continues?</b>		
	A divided health care system where the poor get treated by practitioners and the wealthy see qualified doctors/specialists	156	23
	Increase in misdiagnoses and medical accidents	152	22
	Higher rates of chronic disease, requiring extra health care and hospital beds	145	21
	A clogged-up public hospital system	130	19
	A US-style of managed care with the government dictating where and how patients are treated	94	14
<b>5</b>	<b>On the whole, do you have faith in the Queensland public health care system?</b>		
	No – poor decisions and cost-cutting have gutted the public system	114	17
	Very little – it needs better leadership and more funding	142	21
	Somewhat – but quality and services have diminished across the board in the past decade	308	45
	In most areas	49	7
	Yes – it's world class	64	9
<b>6</b>	<b>In your opinion, how dangerous to patient health is the State Government's initiative to allow pharmacists to prescribe and dispense some medications?</b>		
	Extreme risk – apart from the potential dangers to patients, it contradicts global evidence and efforts to fight anti-microbial resistance	232	34
	High risk – the move is irresponsible	168	25
	Medium risk – there is potential for some people to become extremely ill	212	31
	Low risk – the antibiotics being prescribed pose extremely low risk	43	6
	No risk – it's a great move and about time	22	3

SURVEY QUESTION	NUMBER OF RESPONSES PERCENTAGE	
<b>7 How dangerous to women's health is the State Government's initiative to reduce maternity services in regional and rural areas?</b>		
Extremely dangerous – the shutting of maternity services often leaves regional and rural towns without anaesthetists and other specialists in the area, so there's a significant flow-on effect to health care access	282	42
Quite dangerous – some areas have no doctor involvement at all in maternity care	176	26
Catastrophic – rural women are treated as second class citizens and are provided with Developing World health care	163	25
Not very dangerous – most people realise it's the price of living in rural areas and that their GP can provide pre and post maternity care	48	7
Not at all – child birth is a natural process	8	1
<b>8 From what you can see of public health policy, do you believe the State Government is making sound medical decisions regarding patient care?</b>		
Not at all – doctors' advice is being ignored in favour of other treatments that place patients at risk	400	59
Somewhat – though there are some policies which don't make medical sense	257	38
Absolutely – we're in good hands	20	3
<b>9 What is the most important change needed to improve patient care?</b>		
Appoint doctors with frontline experience to key policy-making positions	288	43
Increase funding for public and preventative health through primary care	124	18
Boost funding for specialist services to ensure equal access to quality care	79	12
Improve funding and resourcing of mental health services	54	8
Reduce public waiting lists through fair remuneration for private doctors	41	6
Collaborate with doctors on ways to re-open services in the bush	31	5
Boost end of life care services	26	4
Increase funding and support to meet accreditation requirements for training positions in the public sector to improve supply of specialists	22	3
Increase funding for alcohol and drug services	12	2