

ABI SCI Connect

Working together for excellence in brain and spinal cord injury services across Queensland

Factsheet June 2019

Background

In July 2017 the [ABI SCI Connect](#) team commenced work to implement the statewide adult brain injury rehabilitation and spinal cord injury health service plans, 2016 – 2026 ([statewide plans](#)). In April 2016, the statewide plans were endorsed by the Department Policy and Planning Executive Committee. *ABI SCI Connect* aims to enhance quality, capability coordination and access to adult brain and spinal cord injury health services across Queensland.

Benefits

- Earlier commencement of specialised rehabilitation to optimise health outcomes.
- Reduced non-value adding length of stay and improved patient flow.
- Prevention of comorbidities, adverse events and associated readmissions.
- Equitable access to specialist services.
- Better integration between acute, subacute and primary care sectors.
- Earlier transition to home enabling community participation and occupational engagement.



Progress

Statewide Collaboration

- The steering committee, Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) clinical advisory networks convene regularly with representation from key HHS, consumers and professional streams.
- Statewide forums for networking, capacity building and information sharing have been coordinated in partnership Statewide Rehabilitation Clinical Network: 'Innovative Models of Care' June 2018 and 'Better Together' June 2019.
- Engagement with key HHS and statewide clinical networks including visits to Townsville, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast HHS has fostered collaboration and a shared approach to implementation of actions.

Key Achievements:

- A seed funded telehealth project has been implemented to increase utilisation and promote access to specialist brain and spinal cord injury services.
- HHS in key locations have commenced planning for the establishment of specialist brain injury hub services.
- Admission, prioritisation criteria and guiding principles for referrals to the tertiary and hub services have been established and endorsed by the ABI clinical advisory network.
- Feedback has been collected on the Queensland Spinal Cord Injury Service (QSCIS) website from both clinicians and consumers with the aim to enhance access to and quality of SCI information and educational resources.
- The Skin Management and Rehabilitation Team – revised (SMARTr) has been formed and has commenced development of statewide resources on the management of complex pressure injuries.
- Consultation, review of evidence and service mapping has commenced with key stakeholders to inform development of an ABI and SCI inreach services.
- The ABI Clinical Advisory Network (ABI-CAN) has endorsed the concept of a statewide brain injury website and commenced work to map and collate existing resources.
- Development of workforce recommendations for multidisciplinary inpatient, ambulatory care and community brain injury teams has commenced.
- Analysis of statewide brain injury rehabilitation service data.
- Commitment from key stakeholders to development of a pathway for acute traumatic spinal cord injury.
- Collaboration with HHS finance areas and Health Care Purchasing and Funding Branch to evaluate statewide funding models for specialised brain injury rehabilitation and spinal cord injury services.

Vision
Excellence and integration in brain and spinal cord injury services

Mission
Build a capable, outcome focused and networked service system that promotes the best possible recovery and life for people with brain and spinal cord injury.

Aim
Drive the implementation of the statewide adult brain injury rehabilitation and statewide adult spinal cord injury health service plans 2016-2026 in collaboration with relevant Hospital and Health Services and Clinical Networks.

Program of work

Activity of ABI SCI Connect aligns with the Queensland Health strategic plan:

Strategic Objective		Activity
Promoting wellbeing	Supporting Queenslanders to be healthy	<p>Develop, enhance and promote access to educational and health promotional resources for people with ABI and SCI and their carers and families including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> further development of web based resources to promote health and wellbeing engage with and support the primary care sector to respond to the health needs of people with brain and spinal cord injury
	Enabling safe, quality services	<p>Promote and translate evidence to practice through the development of policies, guidelines, care pathways, tools and other resources including in areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pressure injury prevention and management transitions across the continuum of care acute traumatic spinal cord injury management management of behaviours of concern
		<p>Develop and enhance integrated networks of specialised spinal cord injury and brain injury rehabilitation services across QLD including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> define the role and service profile of the tertiary service and hub brain injury services develop statewide referral pathways, transfer guidelines and networking processes articulate and promote the service profile of the Queensland Spinal Cord Injury Service (QSCIS) as the tertiary spinal cord injury service in QLD explore and develop inreach rehabilitation models for brain and spinal cord injury facilitate early notification and transfer to specialist acute SCI services develop mechanisms to provide coordinated care across HHS define and develop SCI services in Townsville, including the possibility of a transition rehabilitation service.
High performance	<p>Develop and promote consistent data collection and management including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a minimum data set for ABI and SCI data capture, integration and reporting mechanisms to inform future service planning progressing brain injury and spinal cord injury databases for QLD. 	
Connecting healthcare	Equitable health outcomes	<p>Improve equitable access, create service efficiencies, reduce length of stay and prevent readmissions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased use of and access to telehealth and other smart technologies develop and implement mechanisms to streamline service provision promote earlier and increased utilisation of community based rehabilitation develop and implement strategies to reduce non-value adding length of stay develop capacity to manage pressure injuries across the system.
	Broad engagement with partners	<p>Collaboration and engagement across the service system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> shared development of resources and strategies across HHS engagement with people with ABI and SCI, their families and carers to inform implementation communication and partnerships with disability services, peak bodies, universities across shared work areas.
Pursuing innovation	Dynamic policy and planning leadership	<p>Development of the ABI and SCI workforce and service system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop recommendations for workforce standards identify professional development opportunities for the specialist service, generalist services, community health and NGOs develop policies, guidelines and pathways that promote service quality and efficiency.
	Engaged and productive workforce	<p>Enhance capability for excellence in ABI and SCI service provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and develop opportunities for workforce professional development develop programs for upskilling to promote high quality, safe service provision.

ABI SCI Connect Team

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