

# Queensland Clinical Senate

Clinician leadership. Consumer collaboration. Better care.

## The History of the Queensland Clinical Senate

The Queensland Clinical Senate was established in late 2008 with its first meeting held in May 2009. The senate was established by the then Director-General of Queensland Health Michael Reid to provide structured and transparent engagement with clinicians in clinical service planning and policy development.

Dr Bill Glasson was appointed inaugural chair in May 2009 and led the Senate during a major health reform—implementation of the National Health and Hospitals Network and the establishment of Lead Clinician Groups in Local Hospital Networks at a national level.

In its first year, the Senate appointed approximately 60 members from across Queensland Health's 27 Health Service Districts and made recommendations on topics including 'clinician education and training' and 'care at the right time and right place'.

The Senate celebrated its 10th year in 2019 with approximately 90 members, including consumer and carer representation. During its decade as a strategic clinician advisory body to Queensland Health, the Senate—in partnership with clinicians, consumers and managers—has been successful in advocating for:

- GP access to The Viewer
- publicly funded bariatric surgery for a defined group of people
- a statewide strategy for end-of-life care, including a community education program and a charter for adults and children
- funding to support the implementation of innovative models of integrated care
- action to address obesity including the removal of sugary drinks from public hospitals in Queensland
- an evidence-based review of the quality of patient health outcomes related to National Emergency Access Target (NEAT), resulting in a revised NEAT target of 80%
- a charter of clinical requirements for digital health.

### Chairs

#### Dr Bill Glasson

(Inaugural Chair)

May 2009 - October 2012

#### Dr David Rosengren

January 2013 – January 2019

#### Dr Alex Markwell

January 2019 - present



The early meetings of the Queensland Clinical Senate were held in the Queensland Parliament Senate Chambers.

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## Testimonials

'As a collective we manage to have an influence on how clinical services are enhanced across all of Queensland - it's a very powerful forum for positive change to patient and community care.'

### **Anthony Brown**

Director of Medical Services - Northern Zone  
Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service

'The Senate provides a unique forum for clinicians to have really robust and important conversations that can change lives for our patients and change the way the system works.'

### **Dr Trisha O'Moore-Sullivan**

Director, Medical and Chronic Disease Services  
Mater Health



The inaugural Senate Executive.

'The Senate's Charter for Care at the End of Life has had an amazing impact on the care that I provide as a nurse when we are supporting patients through the care of the dying pathway.'

### **Nicola Young**

Nursing Director  
Mackay Hospital and Health Service

'I feel very privileged to be a member of the Senate – in my role as Assistant Director of Pharmacy I never imagined having the opportunity to sit in a room with the DG and Minister and have the ability to influence at a state level.'

### **Trudy Teasdale**

Assistant Director of Pharmacy  
Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service

'HCQ has been involved with the Senate from the very beginning and over a period of time the consumer has become a very important focus for the Senate. The Senate has really embraced the consumer at the centre of what it does to help improve the health system.'

### **Mark Tucker-Evans**

Former Chair, Health Consumers Queensland

'For Board Chairs who don't have a clinical background the Senate is a tremendous opportunity to engage with clinicians to understand the challenges, issues and strategic implications for Boards. We can then implement solutions with our clinicians for the good of health in Queensland.'

### **Mike Willis**

Chair, West Moreton Health Board