The past year has been a challenging and rewarding one for the Clinical Skills Development Service (CSDS), with many changes, and more to come. It has been our pleasure to work with all of you during 2011, and we look forward to leading the continued development of our service into 2012.

Thank you to everyone around the state for your hard work that has allowed us to achieve so much this year. Please take the holiday period to enjoy some well-earned time off. If you are travelling, please stay safe on the roads.

We wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday. Make sure you enjoy the break and come back refreshed in the new year.
Vision:
“To be an international leader in achieving measurable improvement in healthcare quality through the use of simulation-based training and research.”
CSDS update

CSDS has begun work on several important projects in 2011. Queensland Health and Health Workforce Australia have signed a multi-million dollar agreement to provide funding for simulated learning environments, a substantial investment in education for clinicians in Queensland.

We were also jointly successful in securing an agreement to develop training materials for a national simulation training program. We have begun work on this project and will continue developing it into the new year. You can read more about this important work on page 6.

Throughout the year, we have continued expanding our courses, increasing the educational opportunities that we offer to clinicians throughout the state, as well as to our staff and Faculty through our range of facilitator training courses. We have also continued to grow the state-wide network of Pocket Simulation Centres and Skills Centres, allowing more clinicians around Queensland to access simulation-based training. Some exciting updates from centres around the state are on page 12.

If you would like to know more about any of the stories in this newsletter, or any of the work we’re doing at the Brisbane Skills Development Centre or around the state, please email us.

In the coming year, we are looking forward to meeting new challenges, and working further to improve healthcare through training and research.
Faculty survey: key results

The CSDS Faculty Survey 2011 received a strong response, with 77 Faculty members completing the survey. These respondents represent medical, nursing, and allied health professionals in centres around the state, from the Skills Development Centre in Brisbane to the Cairns Skills Centre in the north and west to Pocket Simulation Centres in the Darling Downs district.

Faculty attitudes to delivering simulation-based training were overwhelmingly positive, with 98.7% indicating they either are happy with their current level of involvement or would like to become more involved. Almost two thirds said they believe that the centralised, state-wide education offered through CSDS is critical for effective education delivery in their districts.

The survey results have also given us important feedback on what we can work to improve, particularly to better support Pocket Simulation Centres and Skills Centres. 75.3% of respondents told us what they would like to receive more information about, including CSDS courses and eLearning, CSDS Central, and Pocket Simulation Centre agreements. We received feedback on what topics Faculty would like to receive more training in, including debriefing, time management, and dealing with difficult interactions. Many indicated that their ability to deliver training is limited by other commitments, including clinical work, and limited access to physical resources.

We thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey. The results are enabling us to continue improving the work we do and to strengthen our partnerships with Faculty throughout Queensland.

‘The pocket simulation model allows Queensland to eclipse the rest of Australia.’
Health Workforce Australia Simulated Learning Environments grant

We are currently involved in the delivery of two Health Workforce Australia (HWA) projects that aim to significantly increase simulation based education and training capacity in the Australian health sector. On 30 September 2011, Queensland Health and HWA signed an agreement to provide $7.03 million in funding for simulated learning environments in Queensland. The funding will allow Queensland Health to make a major investment in simulation assets, to be further supported with recurrent funding for simulation equipment, staffing, and maintenance over the next 10 years.

CSDS has responsibility for allocating the resources that may be provided under the agreement. As part of this, districts and their education provider partners were asked to collaborate and submit proposals demonstrating how the funding could be used to support staff and student education. More than 50 expressions of interest were received from across the state. A panel convened in December 2011 to review the final applications, and equipment and staff resources are anticipated to be in districts by 30 June 2012 to enable the successful projects.
Executive Director Marcus Watson and Director Dylan Campher recently represented CSDS in a national consortium, Australian Simulation Education and Technical Training (AusSETT), that was successful in bidding for an agreement with Health Workforce Australia to develop materials for a national training program for simulation educators and technician/coordinators. This project involves delivering an initial round of training to 230 of these simulation staff. The initial cohort will then train others, with an anticipated total of 6,000 people to be trained over three years across Australia. The initial training is provided through a combination of online modules and face-to-face workshops. CSDS has assisted in developing and hosting a website and education material that is hosted on the CSDS learning management system. The ongoing training for Queensland will be coordinated through the Integrated Regional Clinical Training Networks that Queensland Health is establishing.
New eLearning courses

We have recently added to our suite of eLearning courses, completing and launching a range of new projects. These include:

**Spina Bifida**
- Spina Bifida, a course for physiotherapists at all levels of practice. This course improves practitioner knowledge, skills, and confidence to manage spina bifida and related conditions in young people.

**Criteria Led Discharge**
- Criteria Led Discharge, a course that trains non-medical specialists to discharge hospital patients according to set criteria, improving patient flow. This course uses an innovative online technique to allow learners to practise by discharging virtual patients.

**Basic Knowledge for Colonoscopists**
- Basic Knowledge for Colonoscopists, a course for junior doctors that provides an introduction to colonoscopy. The eLearning course is blended with simulation-based training to provide a fundamental introduction to colonoscopy in a safe environment before doctors begin performing procedures on real patients.

**Medical Emergency Response Team**
- Medical Emergency Response Team, a course for medical and nursing staff in acute medical assessment and resuscitation, as may be encountered in an emergency response call. This course has been updated and re-released in our new learning management system.

All of our eLearning courses are flexible and self-paced, designed to fit into the lives of busy clinicians. Queensland Health staff can access any of these online training opportunities, and a wide range of other eLearning courses, free of charge through our website.

More courses are in development for 2012, including training for simulation facilitators. We will announce more details in future newsletters as courses become available.
Pocket Simulation Centres and Skills Centres update

We have continued to expand the network of Pocket Simulation Centres and Skills Centres throughout this year. We currently have:

- **27** centres up and running
- **11** in the final stages of being set up
- **9** centres up and running
- **15** potential new centres who have submitted expressions of interest.

**Rockhampton Skills Centre**

Rockhampton Hospital has opened its high-tech new Simulation Room. For the first time, clinical staff have access to training on the hospital grounds using the latest equipment. The facility has been developed with support from CSDS and The University of Queensland’s Rural Clinical School.

“This really is an exciting development for our staff,” said Matthew Johnson, Nursing Director of Education and Research. “Simulation training provides wonderful opportunities for clinical staff to develop their skills in a safe environment.”

*The University of Queensland School of Medicine Dean Prof. David Wilkinson cuts the ribbon at the new Simulation Room with Matthew Johnson, Dr Alan Sandford, and Michael Guerin.*
Mater PICU Pocket Simulation Centre

The Mater Children’s Hospital Pocket Simulation Centre is based in the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU). The centre was established as the pilot for the Pocket Simulation Centre model, and now provides simulation-based training for the entire Mater Children’s Hospital. The centre’s main objectives are to improve training for clinical staff and to improve patient safety. On average, 50 simulated scenarios are performed each month, plus many additional hours of skills and equipment training. The centre also provides simulation-based training for specialty areas such as extracorporeal life support (ECLS), paediatric transport, and advanced paediatric ventilation.

Townsville Skills Centre

Happy holidays to all, from the Townsville Skills Centre.

If you would like to see your centre featured in a future newsletter, please email CSDS.
Course delivery and event achievements

Six months into the current financial year, we have already delivered 118 CSDS courses, enabling 1,285 clinicians across the state to receive training. As well as courses at the Skills Development Centre (SDC) in Brisbane, the Simulation team has travelled to deliver training in areas including:

- Monto
- Harvey Bay
- Maryborough
- Rockhampton
- Mackay
- Cairns
- Redcliffe
- Gold Coast
- Townsville
- Bundaberg.

CSDS has also hosted 237 external events at the SDC so far this financial year. We are looking forward to a busy start in 2012 for both course delivery and external events.

CHI Awards for Excellence 2011

The CHI End of Year Update was held on 30 November 2011 at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital campus. As part of the event, the winners of the annual CHI Awards for Excellence were announced.

Our own James Bishop received the Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Individual. James was nominated for the award for his work as Multimedia Coordinator at CSDS. The award recognises the exceptional job James has done in supporting the everyday work of CSDS, as well as establishing Pocket Simulation Centres, and showing initiative and leadership across a range of projects.

Award-winning CSDS Multimedia Coordinator James Bishop.
CSDS Central, our innovative web portal that enables staff across the state to access and share simulation training resources, is continuing to grow.

The Course Delivery Database component of CSDS Central is coming soon. This database has been nine months in the making and will replace the need to use multiple spreadsheets for tasks including:

- scheduling courses and events
- rostering Faculty and simulation staff
- recording participant information
- keeping up-to-date course profiles and associated documents.

The new database feature will improve the way we do core administrative duties in CSDS, by minimising errors, system failures, and data loss, and making our work more efficient. The Delivery team is currently troubleshooting the database, and looking forward to a planned launch in April 2012.

Staff can access CSDS Central through our [website](#).
State-wide Simulation Delivery Project update

In September 2011, the State-wide Simulation Delivery Project (SSDP) Committee was established with representatives from across the state, who will meet bi-monthly to provide advice on project deliverables. The committee appointed Kersi Taraporewalla as chair, and held their first meeting on 21 November 2011.

The primary focus for the SSDP towards the end of 2011 has been the accreditation milestone. The accreditation framework, developed by Curriculum Manager Matt Shuker, has recently completed the first round of stakeholder consultations, with extensive feedback provided that will be considered before the document is finalised and presented to the committee. In conjunction with the development of the framework, the accreditation portfolio is finalising the accreditation implementation strategy.

Over the last three months, the staffing portfolio has developed standardised position descriptions for Simulation Coordinators and Simulation Educators in the Administration Officer stream, with development still occurring on the Nurse Grade and Health Professional streams. The equipment portfolio completed their first deliverable, equipment evaluation, in October 2011. The portfolio is ahead of schedule and currently finalising the equipment procurement and maintenance and repair processes. All deliverables will be available to download via CSDS Central once the committee has reviewed the documents and provided their support.

‘The equipment portfolio is ahead of schedule’

Simulation equipment news

The CSDS Simulation Equipment Policy, which defines how our equipment is acquired, loaned, used, and maintained, is now available on QHEPS. All staff can access the document here.

We have also introduced verifications of competency (VOCs) to standardise training on our equipment for simulation facilitators. VOCs are practical assessments that take less than an hour to complete for each piece of equipment, and are valid for 12 months. All Simulation Educators, Simulation Coordinators, and other users of CSDS-owned full-body manikins are now required to obtain relevant VOC certifications and renew them annually.