



GENERAL PRACTICE  
tasmania

## QUARTERLY INDICATORS

This is the second of a series of Quarterly reports produced by General Practice Tasmania to monitor a range of key health indicators in Tasmania:

**SERVICE UTILISATION** – indicators of the volume and use of a range of health services.

**DISEASE PREVENTION** – indicators associated with the prevention of chronic disease and the maintenance of population health.

**CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT** – activity associated with the management of patients with chronic conditions.

**UPTAKE OF NATIONAL INCENTIVES** – the uptake of a range of practice incentives provided by the Federal Government.

Issue 2 provides preliminary data from the 2008 GP Census and analyses shifts in the key primary care indicators between the December Quarter of 2007 and the first March Quarter of 2008.

A further analysis between the March Quarter of 2007 and the March Quarter of 2008 is provided given the evident seasonal fluctuations in service provision across the majority of MBS Items.

Selected Tasmanian public hospital activity data 2005 to March 2008 is also presented in this issue.

Issue 2 is in four sections: Section 1 provides statewide indicators and sections 2, 3 and 4 provide indicators for each of the three regions. Where applicable, comparisons between the regions and statewide averages are made.

For feedback or access to the detailed data tables used in preparing this issue please contact General Practice Tasmania on (03) 6224 1114 or via email [info@gptasmania.com.au](mailto:info@gptasmania.com.au).

**IN THE NEXT ISSUE:** *In addition to further updates on national performance indicators, the December issue of Quarterly Indicators will report on the Tasmanian GP Census 2008 and Divisional level indicators used for 6 monthly reports to the Department of Health and Ageing including the use of reminder recall systems and satisfaction with hospital discharge information.*

## VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

september 2008

### TASMANIA AT A GLANCE:

#### WORKFORCE AS AT MAY 2008:

- 164 general practices
- 546 general practitioners
- 386.1 estimated full time equivalent general practitioners
- 236 practice nurses
- 59% of general practices with at least one practice nurse

#### KEY INDICATORS:

##### DECEMBER QUARTER 2007 TO MARCH QUARTER 2008

- Decrease in numbers of standard consultations
- Increase in services provided by practices nurses
- Immunisation coverage rates down slightly
- Decrease in medication reviews
- Stable uptake of national incentives

##### MARCH QUARTER 2007 TO MARCH QUARTER 2008

- Increase in most consultations items with exception of GP emergency consultations which decreased
- Increase in **residential** medication management reviews
- Increase the in use of chronic disease management items
- Substantial increases in mental health care plans
- Decrease in health assessments for the 45-49 year age group

#### PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR

- Continued increase in emergency department presentations, outpatient services and elective surgery waiting lists for Tasmanian public hospitals.
- Decline in inpatient separations for mental health clients and a decrease in the number of Tasmanians accessing residential and community mental health services.

**QUARTERLY INDICATORS  
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2, SEPTEMBER 2008**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**SECTION 1: TASMANIA**

---

1. PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE _____	2
2. SERVICE UTILISATION _____	3
3. DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT _____	6
4. UPTAKE OF NATIONAL INCENTIVES _____	8

**SECTION 2: SOUTHERN TASMANIA** **9**

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1. PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE _____	9
2. SERVICE UTILISATION _____	10
3. DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT _____	12
4. UPTAKE OF NATIONAL INCENTIVES _____	14

**SECTION 3: NORTHERN TASMANIA** **15**

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1. PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE _____	15
2. SERVICE UTILISATION _____	16
3. DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT _____	18
4. UPTAKE OF NATIONAL INCENTIVES _____	20

**SECTION 4: NORTH WEST TASMANIA** **21**

---

1. PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE _____	21
2. SERVICE UTILISATION _____	22
3. DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT _____	24
4. UPTAKE OF NATIONAL INCENTIVES _____	26

**REFERENCES AND DATA SOURCES** \_\_\_\_\_ **26**

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The three regional Divisions of General Practice; General Practice South (701), General Practice North (702) and General Practice North West (703) match the State regional health services boundaries as well as the telephone districts of 62 in the South, 63 in the North and 64 in the North West, respectively.



In 2007 <sup>(1)</sup> Tasmania had a population of 493,341 people. The majority 49% live in the South, 28% in the North and 22% in the North West of the State.

## PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE

*General practice is the primary point of health care for the majority of the community and, as such, provides a gateway into the broader health system. The availability of general practice services within a community can be a useful indicator of the ability of the community to access health care.*

*In May each year, General Practice Tasmania conducts a census of general practitioners and general practices in Tasmania to monitor key trends in the primary care workforce and to assist in service planning.*

## GENERAL PRACTITIONERS <sup>(2)</sup>

During GP Census week 2008, there were 546 GPs practicing in Tasmania, an increase of one GP in the past 12 months and an estimated 386.1 full time equivalent (FTE) GPs. This is equivalent to 78.3 FTE GPs per 100,000 people.

Region	No. of GPs	Estimated FTE GPs	FTE GPs per 100,000 population
South	306	208.4	85.5
North	136	99.0	71.0
North West	104	78.7	71.5
<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>386.1</b>	<b>78.3</b>

In the four census years from 2005 to 2008, there has been an increase of 15 (3%) GPs - below the number that the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee (AMWAC) proposed were needed in Tasmania in order to meet future workforce needs.

In May 2008, Tasmanian GPs spent on average 7.1 sessions a week in general practice, an increase compared with the previous year's average of 6.8 sessions per week.

The mean age of GPs was 49.8 years (median age 49 years). 43% were female and 57 % male.

More detailed analysis of the 2008 Tasmanian GP Census and trends over the past four years will be provided in *Census of Tasmanian General Practitioners: Summary of Results 2008* to be released in December.

## GENERAL PRACTICE NURSES <sup>(2)</sup>

There were 236 practice nurses employed by 97 practices throughout Tasmania in May 2008. This represents an increase of 10 practice nurses between 2007 and 2008.

Region	Practice Nurses	Practices with a PN	% of Practices with PN
South	107	46	51%
North	83	32	70%
North West	46	19	68%
<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>59%</b>

Among the practices that employed practice nurses, the average weekly nursing hours across Tasmania was 46.1, a slight decrease of 2% from the previous year. The average weekly hours per nurse was 19, a decrease of 6% from the previous year.

## GENERAL PRACTICES <sup>(2)</sup>

During Census week 2008 there were 164 general practices in the State a reduction of 4 practices on the previous year.

78 practices (48%) reported "open books" (all GPs within the practice accepting new patients), 41 (25%) reported "closed books" (no GPs within the practice accepting new patients) and 12 (7%) reported some GPs in the practice accepting new patients. Data were missing for the remaining 33 (18%) practices making comparisons from the previous year difficult.

	No. of practices	Open books	Closed books	Some open
South	90	48	26	-
North	46	18	9	7
North West	28	12	6	5
<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>12</b>

## SERVICE UTILISATION

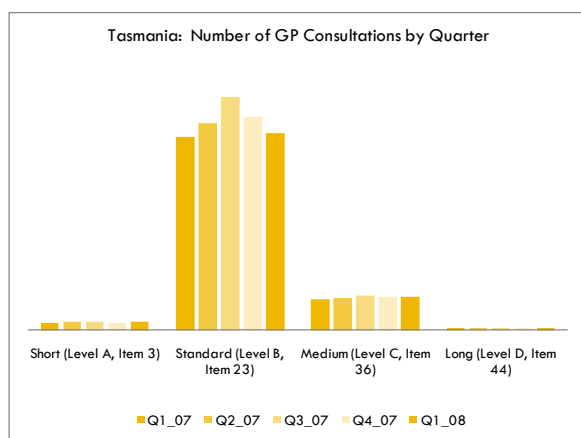
The volume of various health services delivered to a community provide useful indicators of potential demand pressures on the health system. The following information presents information about the utilisation of general practice and public hospital services across the State.

### GP CONSULTATIONS <sup>(3)</sup>

**highlight:** Statewide there was a 3.5% increase in overall GP consultations between the March Quarter 2007 and the March Quarter 2008.

During the March Quarter of 2008 there were a total of 475,918 short, standard, medium and long consultations in Tasmania representing 1,233 consultations per FTE GP. This is slightly lower than the average number of consultations per Quarter in 2007 (503,400) and the average consultations per FTE GP per Quarter (1,357). However a comparison between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008 reveals a 3.5% increase in overall consultations.

There were increases across all standard item consultations; the largest increase (19%) occurring in Item 3 Level A short consultations.



Tasmania: GP Consultations by Quarter

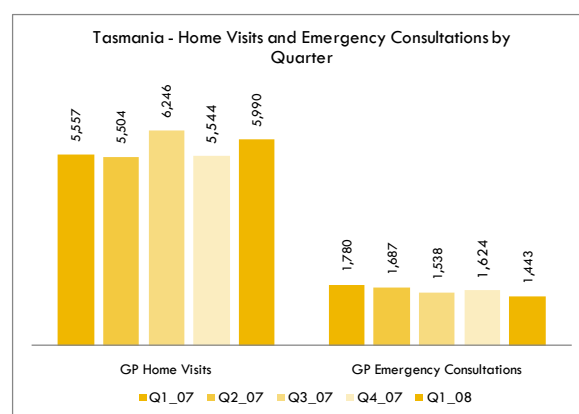
Quarter	Short (Level A, Item 3)	Standard (Level B, Item 23)	Medium (Level C, Item 36)	Long (Level D, Item 44)
Q1_07	14,519	378,763	60,846	5,687
Q2_07	18,067	406,120	64,430	5,779
Q3_07	17,869	458,880	67,955	6,025
Q4_07	15,889	419,722	67,180	5,872
Q1_08	17,292	387,826	65,097	5,703

## HOME VISITS AND EMERGENCY CONSULTATIONS <sup>(3)</sup>

**highlight:** Statewide there was an 8% increase in home visits and a 19% decrease in emergency consultations between the March Quarter 2007 and the March Quarter 2008.

In the March Quarter 2008, there were 5,990 GP home visits and 1,443 GP emergency consultations. This represents an increase in home visits but a decrease in emergency consultations compared to the December Quarter 2008.

A comparison between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008 reveals an 8% increase in home visits and a 19% decrease in emergency consultations statewide.



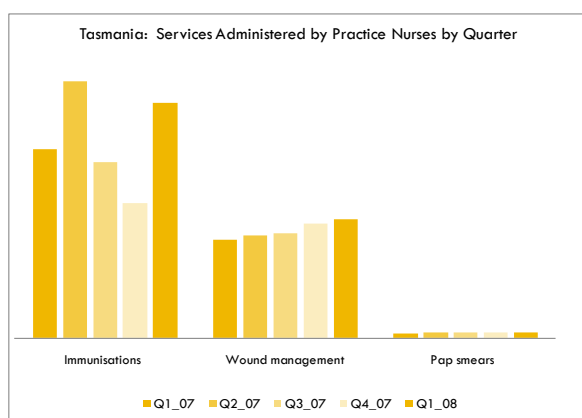
## SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY PRACTICE NURSES <sup>(3)</sup>

Through the Nursing in General Practice program the Australian Government encourages general practice to employ more practice nurses to improve patient access to primary health care, to improve prevention and management of chronic disease and to reduce workforce pressure in general practice.

This is achieved through access to MBS items for practice nurse activities, Practice Incentive Program (PIP) payments to practices to support employment of practice nurses as well as training support measures.

**highlight:** Statewide there was a 24% increase in immunisations, 20% increase in wound management services and 31% increase in pap smears and preventative checks provide by practice nurses between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008.

Services provided by Practice Nurses increased in the March Quarter 2008 numbering a total 25,118 immunisations, 12,669 wound management services and 592 pap smears and preventive health checks.



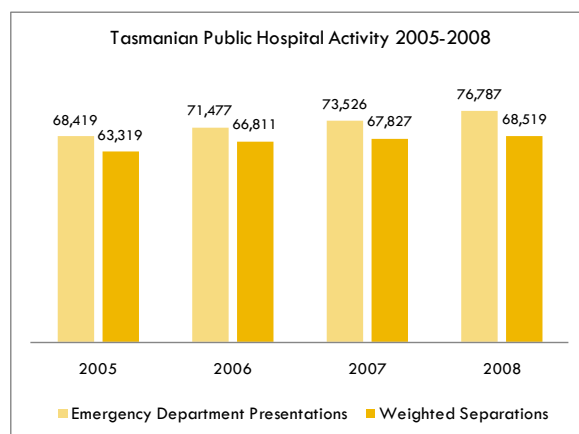
Quarter	Immunisations	Wound Management Services	Pap Smears and Preventive Health Checks
Q1_07	20,227	10,555	452
Q2_07	27,428	10,910	568
Q3_07	18,807	11,218	600
Q4_07	14,400	12,276	529
Q1_08	25,118	12,669	592

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL ACTIVITY <sup>(4)</sup>

**NB:** the 2008 public hospital data reported below represent the nine months ending March 2008. Annual comparisons are for the same period ending 2007 and 2008.

The number of patients presenting to public hospitals is an indicator of the demand pressure on the health system.

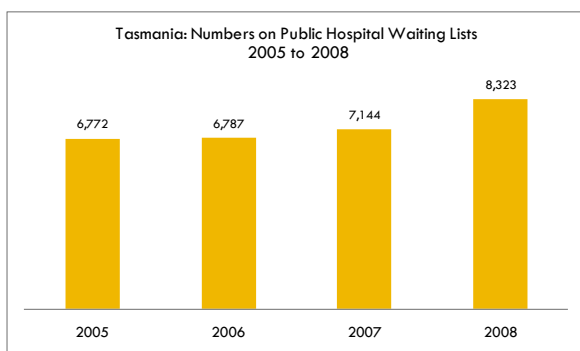
**highlight:** There was a consistent increase in emergency department presentations, weighted separations and outpatient activity during 2005 to 2008 accompanied by a growth in people on the waiting list for elective surgery.



There were 597,061 Outpatient occasions of service for the nine months ending March 2008, a 2% increase compared to the same period in 2007.



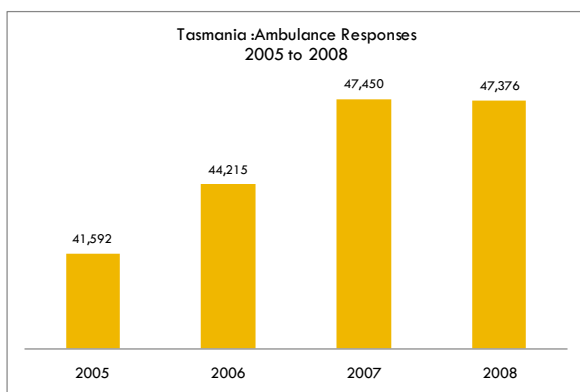
As of 31 March 2008 there were 8,323 people on the waiting list for elective surgery at Tasmanian public hospitals representing a 16.5% increase since March 2007.



Statewide, the median waiting times for elective surgery reduced from 41 to 36 days between 2007 and 2008.

### AMBULANCE RESPONSES <sup>(4)</sup>

During the same period 2005 to 2008 there was an overall increase in ambulance responses but the number remained almost stable between 2007 and 2008.



Ambulance response times also remained relatively stable averaging 10.5 minutes in 2008.

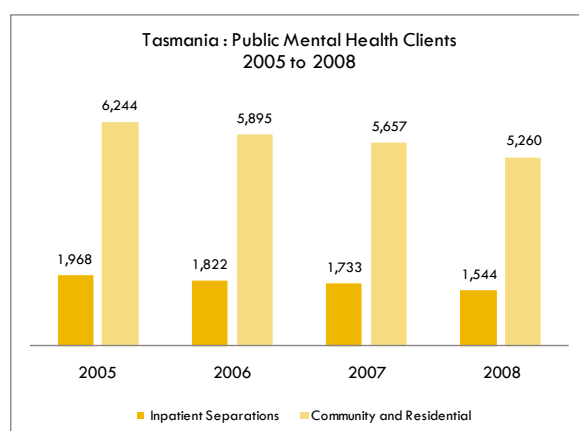
Year	Ambulance Response Time (minutes)
2005	10.2
2006	10.2
2007	10.4
2008	10.5

### MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS <sup>(4)</sup>

**highlight:** The number of inpatient separations for mental health facilities has been declining since 2005 with an 11% decrease in the number of admissions between 2007 and 2008.

For the 9 months ending March 2008, there were a projected 1,544 mental health inpatient separations and 5,260 community and residential active clients in public mental health services.

The number of community and residential clients actively accessing mental health service also shows a decline. However this may be an artefact of changes to data collection following the introduction of a new model of care in 2006.



## DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

### IMMUNISATION COVERAGE <sup>(3)</sup>

The General Practice Immunisation Incentives (GPII) scheme was introduced in 1998 as part of the Immunise Australia: the Seven Point Plan to support the proactive role of general practice in raising childhood immunisation rates.

The GPII scheme provides financial incentives to GPs who monitor, promote and provide immunisation services to children under the age of seven years. The overall aim of the GPII scheme is to encourage at least 90 per cent of practices to achieve 90 per cent proportions of full immunisation.

**highlight:** During the March Quarter 2008, immunisation rates remained relatively stable with a small decline in coverage rates for the 4 to <12 months age group and the 12 to < 18 months age group. The 0 to 4 months age group retains the highest coverage rates while the 12 to < 18 months age group consistently has the lowest coverage rates.

Quarter	0 to <4 months	4 to <12 months	12 to <18 months	18 to <48 months	48 to <84 months
Q1_07	97	90	84	94	91
Q2_07	96	89	84	94	91
Q3_07	97	89	84	94	91
Q4_07	97	89	86	94	91
Q1_08	97	87	83	94	91

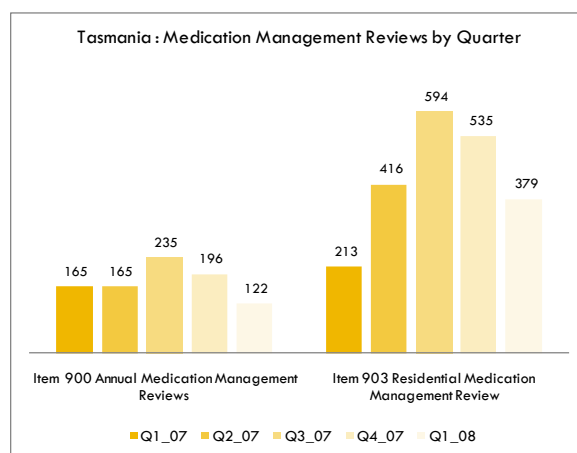
### MEDICATION MANAGEMENT REVIEWS<sup>(3)</sup>

Medication Management Review items enable the review of a patient's medications. Reviews may take place either within a patient's domestic/home or in a Residential Aged Care Facility setting.

Medication Management Reviews are targeted at patients who are likely to benefit from such a review, and for whom quality use of medicines may be an issue or who are at risk of medication misadventure because of their co-morbidities, age or social circumstances, the characteristics of their medicines or the complexity of their medication treatment regimen.

**highlight:** Statewide there was a 26% decrease in medication management reviews and a 78% increase in **Residential** Medication Management Reviews between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008.

In the March Quarter 2008, both Medication Management Reviews and **Residential** Medication Management Reviews decreased compared to the December Quarter 2007. However a comparison between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008 shows a 26% decrease in annual Medication Management Reviews but a 78% increase in **Residential** Medication Reviews.



## HEALTH ASSESSMENTS <sup>(3)</sup>

The Medicare Benefits Schedule provides for a range of health assessments

Item 700: Health Assessments 75+ (in rooms)

Item 702: Health Assessments 75+ (at home)

Item 712: Comprehensive Medical Assessments (in aged care facilities)

Item 717: Health Checks 45-49 years

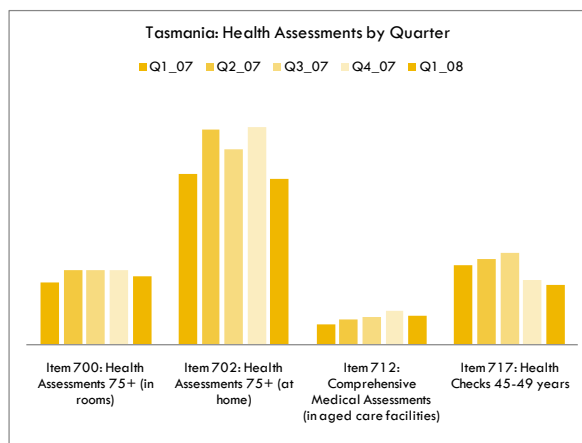
These items are aimed at the early detection of health risk factors and chronic disease, and are part of the growing focus on the promotion of good health and the prevention of chronic disease.

**highlight:** Statewide there was 25% decrease in the number of 45-49 year old Health Checks between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008. There was a 48% increase in Comprehensive Medical Assessment during the same period.

Statewide, in the March Quarter 2008, there was a decrease in the number of all types of health assessments. However a comparison between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008 shows an increase in the number of Item 700 and Item 712 assessments and a very small decrease in Item 702.

The number of health assessments for adults in the 45-49 year age group (Item 717) decreased markedly (25%) between March Quarters 2007 and 2008.

Health Assessments - Tasmania				
Quarter	Item 700	Item 702	Item 712	Item 717
Q1_07	454	1,252	141	582
Q2_07	548	1,583	181	624
Q3_07	549	1,439	196	677
Q4_07	548	1,604	247	470
Q1_08	499	1,220	209	436



## CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT ITEMS <sup>(3)</sup>

The Chronic Disease Management Items enable GPs to manage the health care of patients with chronic medical conditions, including patients who need multidisciplinary care.

Item 721: GP Management Plan

Item 723: Team Care Arrangements

Item 725: GP Review of Management Plan

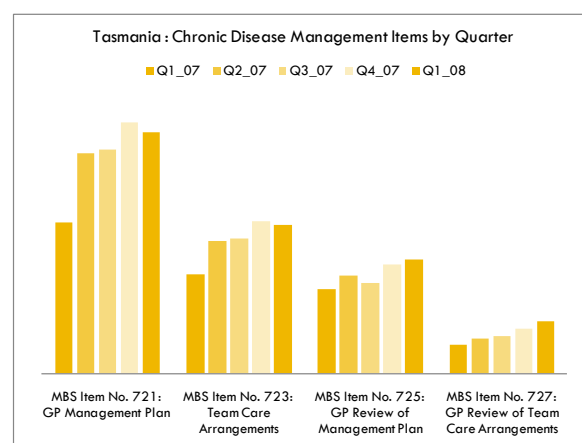
Item 727: GP Review of Team Care Arrangements

Medicare rebates are available to GPs for preparing and reviewing GP Management Plans for patients with chronic medical conditions. For patients requiring multidisciplinary care, GPs can claim from Medicare for coordinating team care planning and review services. These items apply for treatment of people with asthma, cancer, arthritis, diabetes, heart disease and other chronic medical conditions.

**highlight:** Statewide there was 50% increase in the use of Chronic Disease Management Items between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008.

Chronic Disease Managements services remained relatively stable between the December Quarter 2007 and the March Quarter 2008. However there was a 50% increase in the selected items between March Quarters 2007 and 2008.

Chronic Disease Management Items - Tasmania				
Quarter	Item 721	Item 723	Item 725	Item 727
Q1_07	2,207	1,446	1,228	422
Q2_07	3,208	1,930	1,419	510
Q3_07	3,263	1,963	1,324	534
Q4_07	3,654	2,222	1,588	645
Q1_08	3,511	2,171	1,650	749



## MENTAL HEALTH CARE ITEMS <sup>(3)</sup>

The GP Mental Health Care Items (Items 2710, 2712 and 2713) provide Medicare rebates where GPs undertake early intervention, assessment and management of patients with mental disorders.

These items provide a structured framework for GPs to undertake early intervention, assessment and management of patients with mental disorders, as well as providing referral pathways to clinical psychologists and allied mental health service providers.

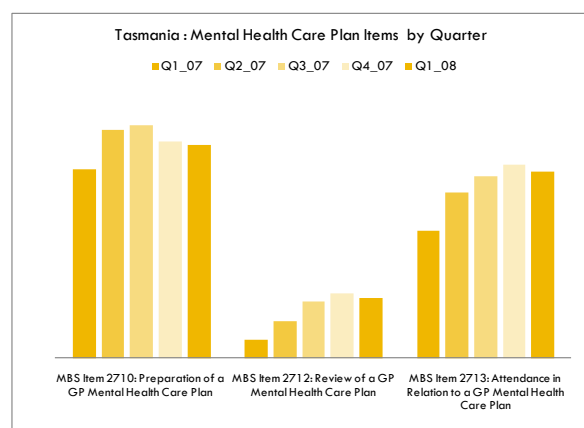
Item 2710: GP Mental Health Care Plan  
Item 2712: GP Mental Health Care Plan Review  
Item 2713: GP Mental Health Care Consultation

**highlight:** Statewide there was a significant increase in the use of all mental health care items between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008.

In the March Quarter 2008 the number of mental health care plan services was slightly lower across all categories than in the December Quarter 2007. However a comparison between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008 shows a substantial increase in mental health care planning services.

MBS Item 2712, which reviews patient progress and assesses the goals outlined in the care plan, more than trebled while Item 2713 increased by 47%.

Mental Health Care Items - Tasmania			
Quarter	Item 2710	Item 2712	Item 2713
Q1_07	2,188	210	1,467
Q2_07	2,643	424	1,911
Q3_07	2,690	657	2,097
Q4_07	2,508	747	2,234
Q1_08	2,469	699	2,161



## UPTAKE OF NATIONAL INCENTIVES

### PRACTICE INCENTIVES PROGRAM <sup>(3)</sup>

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) encourages and assists general practitioners to implement national strategies designed to improve the health of Australians. The program aims to recognise and provide financial incentives to general practices that provide comprehensive quality care. Payments made through the program are in addition to other income earned by the general practitioners and the practice, such as patient payments and Medicare rebates.

**highlight:** Statewide, the uptake of specified Practice Incentive Payments remained relatively stable between November 2007 and February 2008. However the percentage of practices hosting medical students fell by 3%.

In February 2008, 128 of the 164 practices in the Tasmania (78%) were approved as eligible for Practice Incentive Payments. This represents an increase from 75% of practices in 2007.

Practice Incentive	2007	2008
After Hours Tier 1	97%	98%
After Hours Tier 2	73%	73%
After Hours Tier 3	35%	36%
Hosting medical students	39%	36%
Asthma sign on	92%	92%
Cervical Screening sign on	95%	95%
Diabetes sign on	95%	95%
Practice Nurses	54%	54%
IM/IT: Tier 1	90%	90%
IM/IT: Tier 2	87%	88%

PIP data for incentives associated with *Provision of Data to the Commonwealth, Electronic Prescribing, Capacity for Electronic Transfer of Data, Quality Prescribing and Care Planning* is not currently reported by Medicare for Tasmania owing to the small numbers.

For the purposes of the PIP, after hours refers to any time outside 8am to 6pm weekdays and 8am to 12noon on Saturday. There are three tiers to this payment which are summarised in the following table.

Tiers	Activity required for payment
<b>Tier 1 - Ensure coverage</b>	The practice ensures that patients have access to 24-hour care including access to out of hours visits where appropriate.
<b>Tier 2 - Provide at least 15 hours per week</b>	The practice qualifies for Tier 1 <u>and</u> on average, the practice covers at least 15 hours per week of after hours services from within the practice
<b>Tier 3 - Provide all coverage</b>	The practice provides 24-hour coverage seven days a week from within the practice

## SECTION TWO: SOUTHERN TASMANIA

Some of the indicators that follow imply better access to services within the Southern region of Tasmania compared with the other regions such as there are relatively high number of GPs and practice nurses and practices with their books open - High numbers of people on the public hospital waiting list and longest median time on waiting lists for elective surgery militates against this.

### PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE

#### GENERAL PRACTITIONERS <sup>(2)</sup>

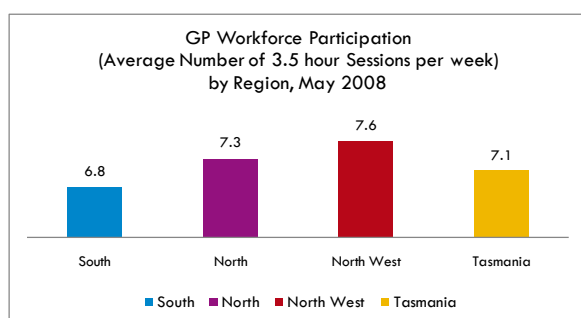
During GP Census week in May 2008, there were 306 GPs practicing in Southern Tasmania and an estimated 208.4 full time equivalent (FTE) GPs.

The number of general practices in the South decreased from 95 in May 2007 to 90 in May 2008.

In the Southern region, GPs practiced on average 6.8 sessions per week, lower than the State average of 7.1 sessions. However this represents a 6% increase in number of sessions compared to the 2007 average of 6.4 per week.

The mean age of GPs in the South was 49.7 years, slightly younger than the state average of 49.8 years.

The South had the highest proportion of female GPs, 45% (or 138) compared to the state rate of 43%.



#### GENERAL PRACTICE NURSES <sup>(2)</sup>

In May 2008, there were 107 practice nurses working in 46 practices in Southern Tasmania. This represents an increase of four practice nurses from the previous year.

The average weekly nursing hours among the practices in the South was 44 hours, a 3% decrease from the previous year. The average weekly hours per nurse in the South was 19, a 5% decrease from the previous year.

#### GENERAL PRACTICES <sup>(2)</sup>

In 2008, 48 practices (53%) in the South reported open books and 26 (29%) closed books. 16 (18%) of practices did not respond.

## THE SOUTHERN REGION

### AT A GLANCE:

#### WORKFORCE AS AT MAY 2008:

- 90 general practices
- 306 general practitioners
- 208.4 estimated full-time equivalent GPs
- 107 practice nurses
- 46 practices with at least one practice nurse

#### KEY INDICATORS:

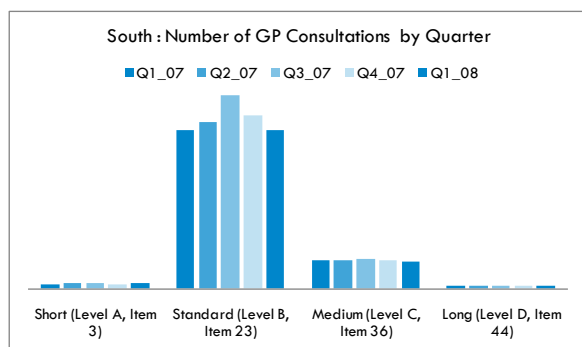
Compared with the rest of the state the Southern region has:

- The highest proportion of female GPs
- The highest rate of FTE GPs per 100,000 population
- The lowest number of consultations per FTE GP in the March Quarter 2008
- The highest rate of "open books"
- The lowest rate of Category 2 patients seen within the recommended time in the public hospital emergency department
- The highest median waiting time for elective surgery

## SERVICE UTILISATION

### GP CONSULTATIONS <sup>(3)</sup>

There were a total of 237,295 short, standard, medium and long consultations in the South during the March Quarter 2008, an average of 1,139 Consultations per FTE GP. Between the December Quarter 2007 and the March Quarter 2008, there was a decrease in number of consultations for items 44, 36 and 23 but an increase for Item 3.

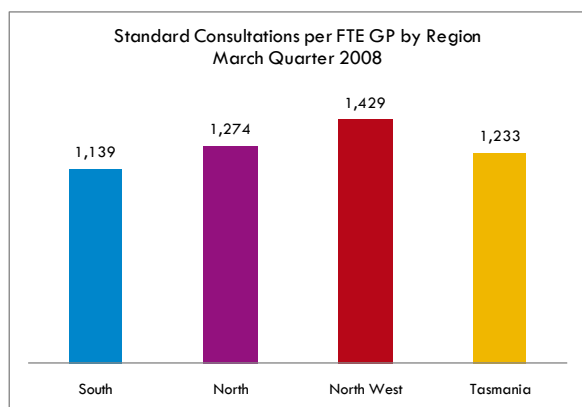


A comparison of the number of consultations between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008 shows an increase in the number of Short Level A Item 3 consultations consistent with the overall Tasmanian picture, but decreases in items 23, 36 and 44 contrary to the overall pattern. However the percentage decreases in items 23 and 36 are very small.

South: GP Consultations by Quarter

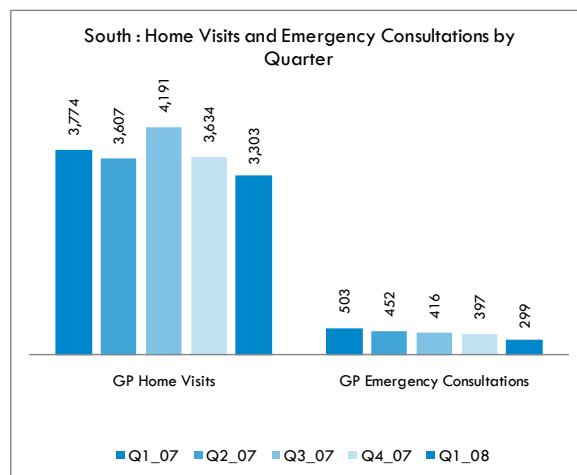
Quarter	Short (Level A, Item 3)	Standard (Level B, Item 23)	Medium (Level C, Item 36)	Long (Level D, Item 44)
Q1_07	5,134	194,634	33,770	3,532
Q2_07	5,806	203,874	34,652	3,368
Q3_07	6,789	236,432	36,539	3,559
Q4_07	5,618	212,525	34,609	3,296
Q1_08	5,949	194,465	33,593	3,288

The South had the lowest number of standard Item consultations per FTE GP in the State for the March Quarter 2008.



## HOME VISITS AND EMERGENCY CONSULTATIONS <sup>(3)</sup>

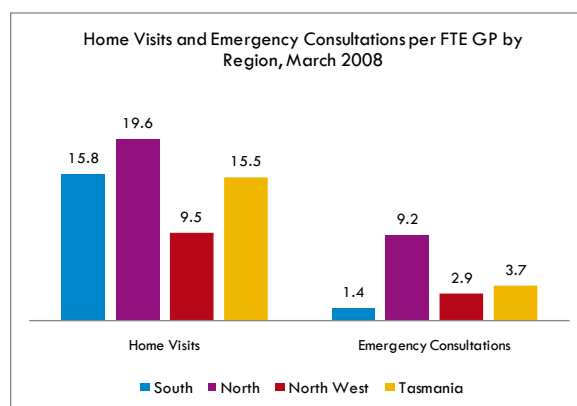
There were 3,303 home visits and 299 emergency consultations in the South during the March Quarter of 2008, an average of 15.8 home visits and 1.4 emergency consultations per FTE GP.



The number of home visits and emergency consultations fell between the December Quarter 2007 and the March Quarter 2008.

Between March Quarters 2007 and 2008 there was a significant decrease in GP emergency consultations, consistent with the overall Tasmanian trend. However, contrary to statewide trends, there was also a decrease in home visits in the South.

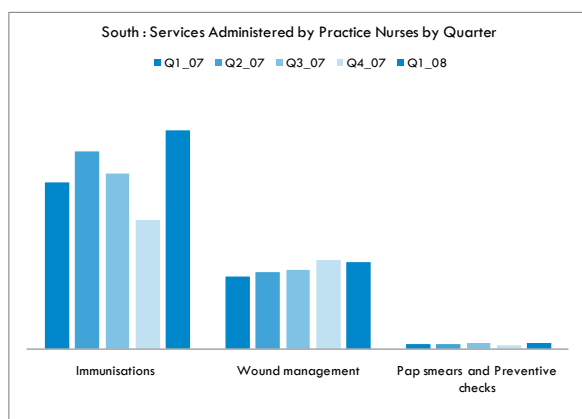
The number of home visits per FTE GP was slightly higher in the South than the state average. The South had the lowest number of emergency consultations per FTE GP in Tasmania for the March Quarter 2008.



## SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY PRACTICE NURSES <sup>(3)</sup>

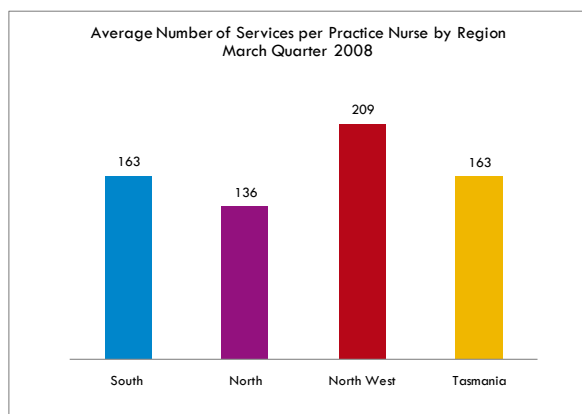
12,302 immunisations, 4,881 wound management services and 294 Pap Smears and Preventive Health Checks were performed by practice nurses in the South during the March Quarter 2008. Statewide, practice nurses in the South provided the highest total number of services for all categories.

Consistent with the overall Tasmanian pattern, the number of services provided by practice nurses in the South continued to increase.



Quarter	Immunisations	Wound Management Services	Pap Smears and Preventive Health Checks
Q1_07	9,350	4,045	225
Q2_07	11,111	4,321	265
Q3_07	9,885	4,454	299
Q4_07	7,255	5,027	202
Q1_08	12,302	4,881	294

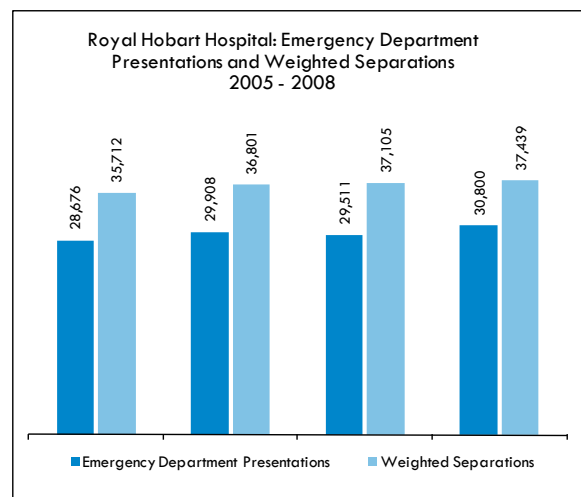
In the March Quarter 2008, each nurse in a Southern practice provided on average 163 services which is equivalent to the statewide average.



## PUBLIC HOSPITAL ACTIVITY <sup>(4)</sup>

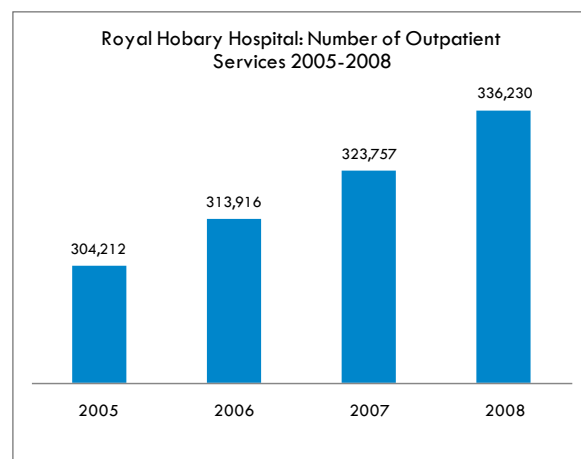
NOTE: All 2008 public hospital data are for the nine months ending March. All comparative data for 2007 are for the same nine month period.

There was an increase in both weighted separations (7%) and emergency department presentations (5%) at the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) from 2005 to 2008 however these were the lowest rates of increase across the state.



The RHH Emergency Department had the lowest rate of Category 2 patients seen within the recommended timeframe for the State. However the percentage had increased substantially to 75.9% from 65% for the previous year and now exceeds the Australian average of 75%.

The volume of outpatient services at the RHH increased by 11% between 2005 and 2008.

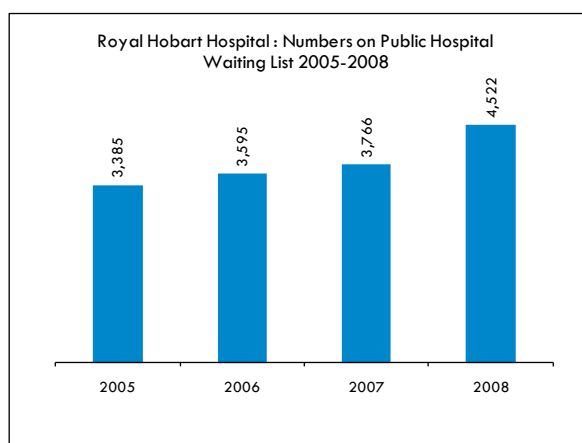


## PUBLIC HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS <sup>(4)</sup>

As at March 2008 there were 4,522 people on the waiting list for elective surgery at the RHH representing a 20% increase since 2007 and the highest increase across the state during the period.

The RHH had the highest median waiting time for elective in the State of 42 days as at 31 March 2008.

Statewide, the median waiting times for elective surgery reduced from 41 to 36 days between 2007 and 2008.



From 2007 to 2008 there was also a decrease of 3.7% in the number of admissions from the elective surgery waiting list at the RHH. The number of admissions from the elective surgery for the other Tasmanian Public Hospitals remained stable for the same period.

## DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

### IMMUNISATION COVERAGE <sup>(3)</sup>

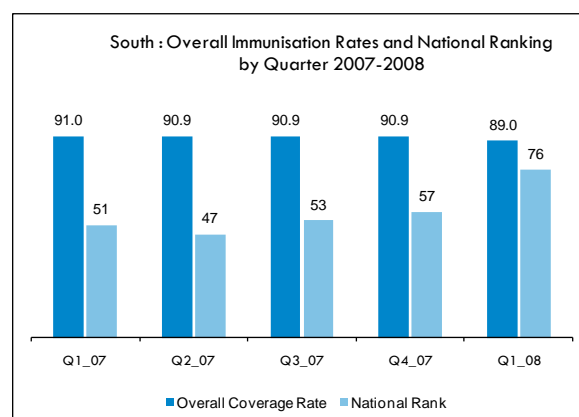
The South recorded an overall immunisation coverage rate of 89% for the March Quarter 2008 and continues to be ranked third in the State.

In the March Quarter 2008, immunisation rates dropped for all age groups when compared to the December Quarter 2007. The greatest declines in the immunisation coverage rate occurred in the 4 to <12 months age group and the 12 to <18 months age group.

The South dropped 25 places in national ranking for overall immunisation coverage rates between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008.

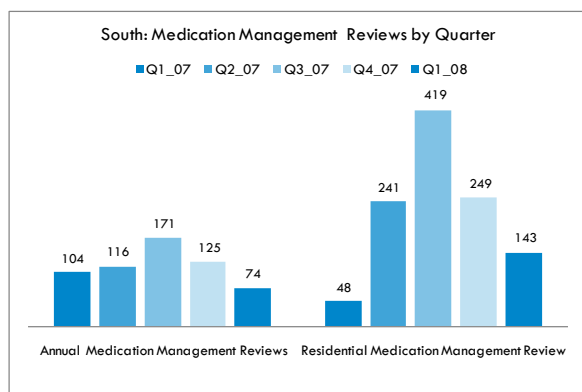
#### South: % Immunisation Coverage Rates

Quarter	0 to <4 months	4 to <12 months	12 to <18 months	18 to <48 months	48 to <84 months
Q1_07	96.8	90.5	81.9	93.8	89.6
Q2_07	95.7	88.1	82.9	93.8	89.9
Q3_07	95.6	87.8	83.2	93.6	89.9
Q4_07	97.0	87.2	83.8	93.7	90.0
Q1_08	93.1	80.9	75.1	93.4	89.4



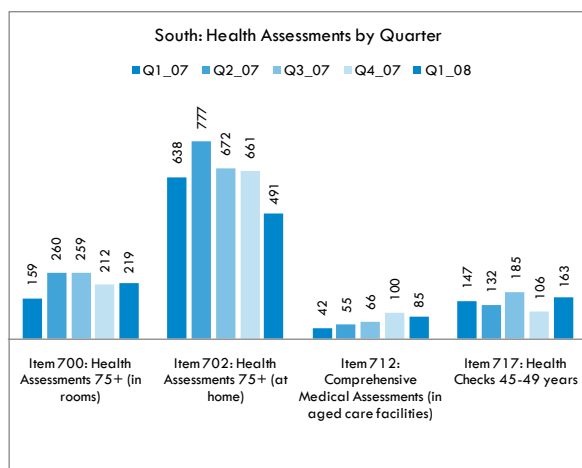
## MEDICATION MANAGEMENT REVIEWS<sup>(3)</sup>

74 annual management reviews and 143 residential medical medication reviews were conducted in the March Quarter 2008 in the South, a decrease in both items compared to the December Quarter 2007. When the March Quarters 2007 to 2008 are compared there is an overall decrease in annual medication management reviews but a substantial increase in residential reviews consistent with the statewide pattern.



## HEALTH ASSESSMENTS<sup>(3)</sup>

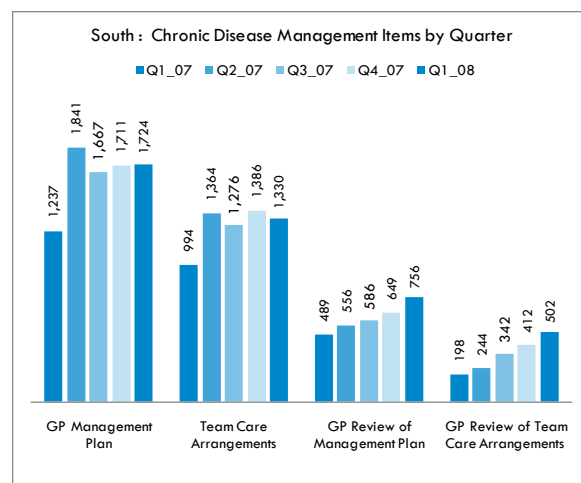
958 health assessments (MBS Items 700, 702, 712, 717) were conducted by GPs in the March Quarter of 2008 in the South. Item 702, Health Assessments aged 75+ years performed in the home was the most frequently performed service. The total number of health assessment services fell slightly between the December Quarter 2007 and March Quarter 2008, consistent with the overall Tasmanian position. However contrary to the statewide pattern, the number of health checks for 45-49 year olds rose by over 50% in the South.



In addition to the numbers of health checks shown above there were also health checks undertaken for refugees and other humanitarian entrants across the as well as for people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin and people with intellectual disabilities but this data is not reported due to the small numbers.

## CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT<sup>(3)</sup>

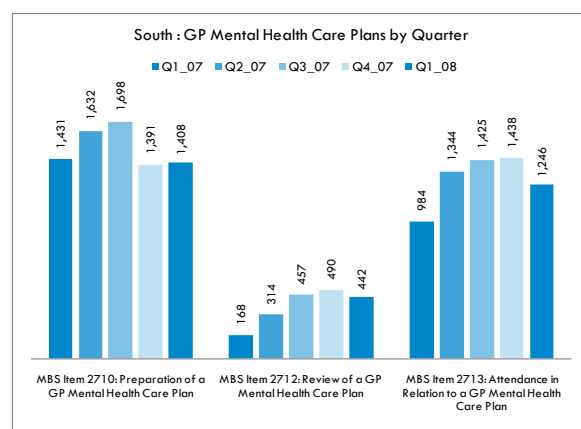
In the South the number of Care Plan services continued to increase during the first Quarter of 2008 continuing the trend throughout 2007. The largest increase occurred in MBS Item No. 727, GP Review of Team Care Arrangements which rose by 154%, between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008. Statewide the overall number of care plans plateaued in the March Quarter 2008 following significant increases throughout 2007.



## MENTAL HEALTH CARE ITEMS<sup>(3)</sup>

3096 mental health care plan services were provided by GPs in the South in the March Quarter 2008, a slight decline in numbers from the December Quarter 2007. The largest decrease was in item 2713, Attendance in Relation to a GP Mental Health Care Plan.

However, consistent with the statewide pattern, there was a substantial increase in all mental health care planning services between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008.



## UPTAKE OF NATIONAL INCENTIVES

### PRACTICE INCENTIVE PROGRAM <sup>(3)</sup>

At the end of February 2008, 74 of the 90 practices in the South (82%) were approved as eligible for Practice Incentive Program (PIP) Payments. This represent an increase form 77% of practices in 2007.The South continues to have the lowest rate of uptake for all reported PIP payments with the exception of IM/IT Tier 1 payments. PIP payments for Asthma sign on increased slightly between November 2007 and February 2008.

Practice Incentive	2007	2008
After Hours Tier 1	96%	97%
After Hours Tier 2	59%	58%
After Hours Tier 3	27%	27%
Hosting medical students	29%	20%
Asthma sign on	89%	91%
Cervical Screening sign on	92%	92%
Diabetes sign on	92%	92%
Practice Nurses	30%	30%
IM/IT: Tier 1	92%	92%
IM/IT: Tier 2	88%	88%

## SECTION THREE: NORTHERN TASMANIA

The Northern region has the lowest number of FTE GPs per population, the oldest GPs in the State and the lowest proportion of female GPs. They also have the highest number of emergency consultations and home visits per FTE GP. In the North practice nurses work the highest number of hours per week. The North has the shortest median wait for elective surgery in the State but the least number of patients seen within recommended times in the public hospital emergency room.

### PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE

#### GENERAL PRACTITIONERS <sup>(2)</sup>

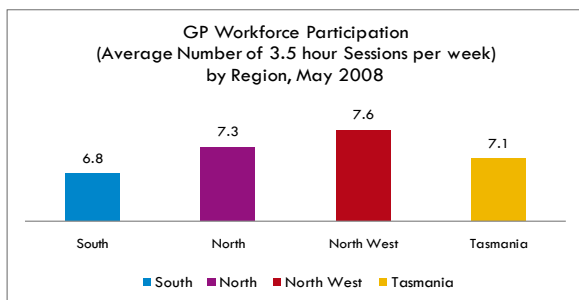
During GP Census week 2008, there were 136 GPs practicing in Northern Tasmania and an estimated 99 full time equivalent (FTE) GPs. The number of GPs has remained the same since 2007 but there has been a 2.8 increase in FTE GPs.

The number of practices in the North, 46, remained the same between 2007 and 2008.

In the Northern region, GPs practiced on average 7.3 sessions per week, slightly higher than the statewide average of 7.1 sessions per week.

The mean age of GPs in the North was 51.2 years, slightly older than the state average of 49.8 years.

42% of GPs (57) in the North are female GPs, marginally lower than the state rate of 43%.



#### GENERAL PRACTICE NURSES <sup>(2)</sup>

In May 2008, there were 83 practice nurses working in 32 practices in Northern Tasmania. This is an increase of three nurses since 2007 and one additional practice employing at least one practice nurse.

The average weekly nursing hours among the practices in the North was 49.0 hours, a 6% increase from the previous year. The average weekly hours per nurse in the North was 19.1, also a 6% increase from the previous year.

#### GENERAL PRACTICES <sup>(2)</sup>

In 2008, 18 practices (39%) in the North report open books, 9 (20%) closed books and 7(15%) report some GPs taking new patients. Data are missing for the remaining 12 practices in the North.

## THE NORTHERN REGION

### AT A GLANCE:

- 46 general practices (as at May 2008).
- 136 general practitioners.
- 99 full-time equivalent GPs.
- 83 Practice nurses.
- 32 practices with at least one practice nurse.

### KEY INDICATORS:

Compared with the rest of the state the Northern region has the:

- The lowest proportion of female GPs
- The lowest number of FTE GPs per 100,000 population in Tasmania
- The oldest mean age for GPs
- The highest average weekly practice nurse hours and highest weekly hours per practice nurse
- Lower uptake of most Practice Incentive Payments
- The lowest rate of "open books"
- The highest rate per FTE GP of home visits and emergency consultations in the March Quarter 2008
- The lowest rate of Category 2 emergency patients seen within recommended timeframes
- The shortest median waiting time for elective surgery

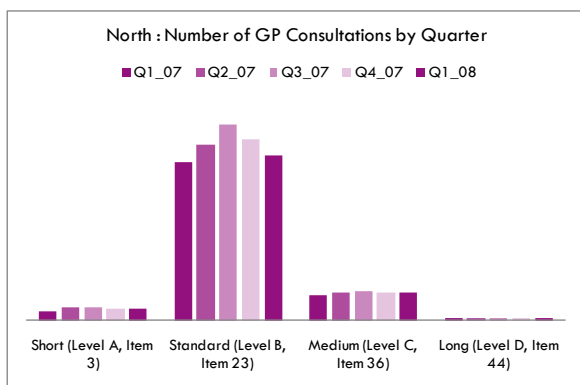
## SERVICE UTILISATION

### GP CONSULTATIONS <sup>(3)</sup>

There were a total of 126,172 short, standard, medium and long consultations in the North during the March Quarter 2008, an average of 1,274 Consultations per FTE GP.

Between the December Quarter 2007 and the March Quarter 2008, there was a decrease in number of consults for items 44, 36 and 23 but an increase for Item 3.

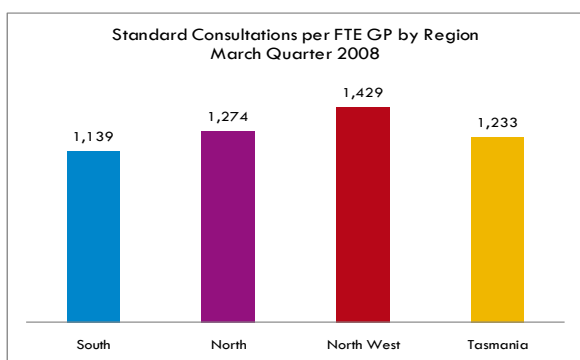
A comparison of consultations between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008 shows an increase in the all types of consultations consistent with the overall Tasmanian picture. In the North the largest change was in Level A consultations which increased by 25.0% for this period.



North: GP Consultations by Quarter

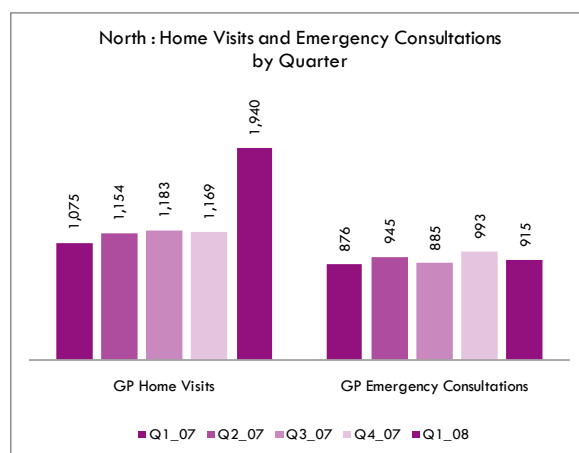
Quarter	Short (Level A, Item 3)	Standard (Level B, Item 23)	Medium (Level C, Item 36)	Long (Level D, Item 44)
Q1_07	6,104	96,043	15,535	1,266
Q2_07	8,361	106,413	16,914	1,417
Q3_07	7,760	118,696	17,525	1,453
Q4_07	7,154	109,886	17,200	1,499
Q1_08	7,623	100,390	16,784	1,375

For the March Quarter 2008, the number of standard item consultations per FTE GP in the North was higher than the South but lower than the North West.



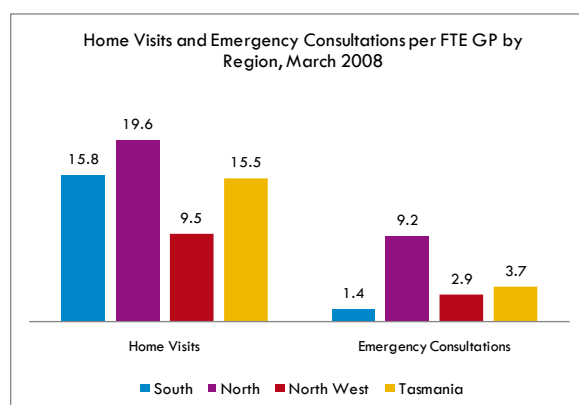
### HOME VISITS AND EMERGENCY CONSULTATIONS <sup>(3)</sup>

There were 1,940 home visits and 915 emergency consultations in the North during the March Quarter of 2008, an average of 19.6 home visits and 9.2 emergency consultations per FTE GP.



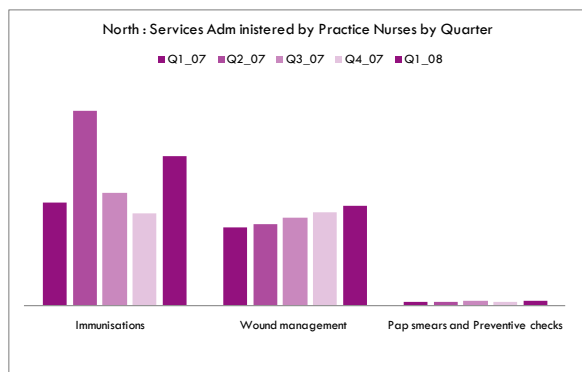
In the North, between the December Quarter 2007 and the March Quarter 2008, the number of home visits increased by 66% but the number of emergency consultations fell slightly. In contrast to the overall Tasmanian trend, between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008 there was a substantial increase in home visits and a small increase in GP emergency consultations in the North.

The North has the highest number of home visits and emergency consultations per FTE GP in the State.



## SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY PRACTICE NURSES <sup>(3)</sup>

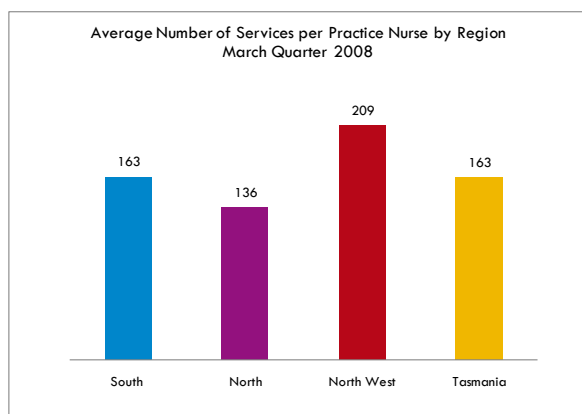
6,651 immunisations, 4,444 wound management services and 179 Pap Smears and preventive health checks were performed by practice nurses in the North during the March Quarter 2008.



Consistent with the overall Tasmanian pattern, the total number of Immunisations, Wound Management and Pap Smear services provided by practice nurses increased between March Quarters 2007 and 2008.

Quarter	Immunisations	Wound Management Services	Pap Smears and Preventive Health Checks
Q1_07	9,350	4,045	225
Q2_07	11,111	4,321	265
Q3_07	9,885	4,454	299
Q4_07	7,255	5,027	202
Q1_08	12,302	4,881	294

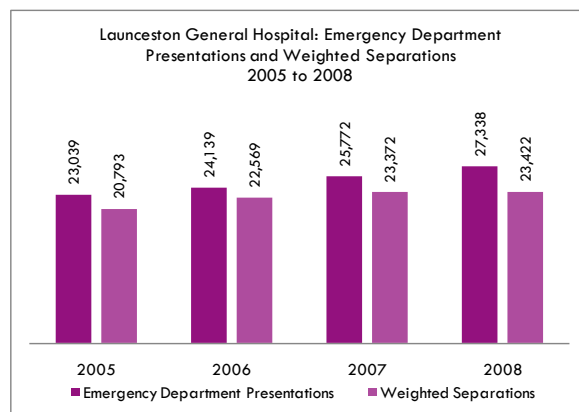
The North had the lowest number of services per practice nurse in the state for the March Quarter 2008.



## PUBLIC HOSPITAL ACTIVITY <sup>(4)</sup>

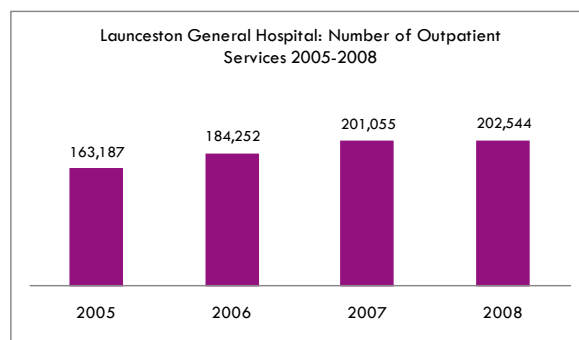
NOTE: All 2008 public hospital data are for the nine months ending March. All comparative data for 2007 are for the same nine month period.

There was a 13% increase in Weighted Separations and a 19% increase Emergency Department Presentations at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) from 2005 to 2008, the largest increases statewide for the period.



65.5% of LGH Emergency Department Category 2 patients were seen within the recommended timeframe in 2008, a decrease 9% from the previous year. This is the lowest in the state and well below the national average of 75%.

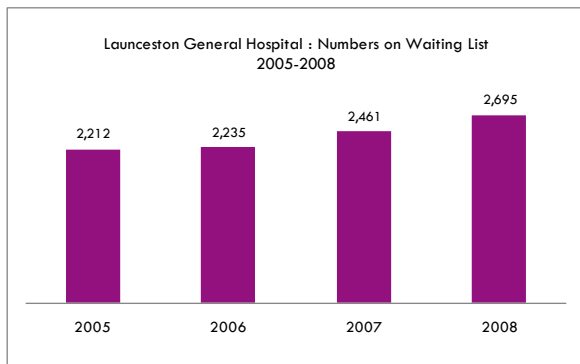
The volume of outpatient services at the LGH increased very slightly (0.7%) between 2007 and 2008.



## PUBLIC HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS <sup>(4)</sup>

As at March 2008 there were 2,695 people on the waiting list for elective surgery at the LGH representing a 9.5 % increase since 2007.

However this was the lowest increase across the state during the period. The LGH had a median waiting time of 29 days as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, the lowest in the state.



From 2007 to 2008 the number of admissions from the elective surgery waiting list at the LGH increased very slightly (1.3%).

## DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

### IMMUNISATION COVERAGE <sup>(3)</sup>

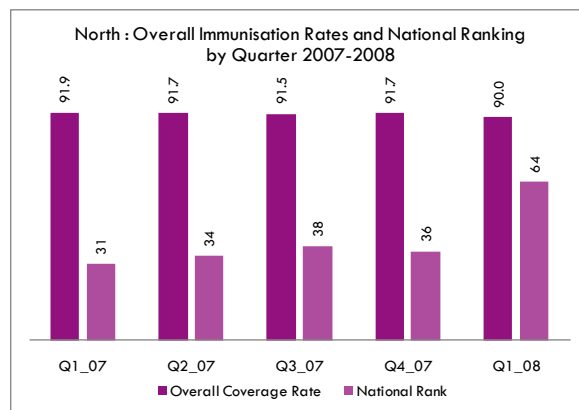
The North recorded an overall immunisation coverage rate of 90% for the March Quarter 2008.

In the March Quarter 2008, immunisation rates dropped for all age groups when compared to the December Quarter 2007. The greatest declines in the immunisation coverage rate occurred in the 4to<12 months age group.

North: % Immunisation Coverage Rates

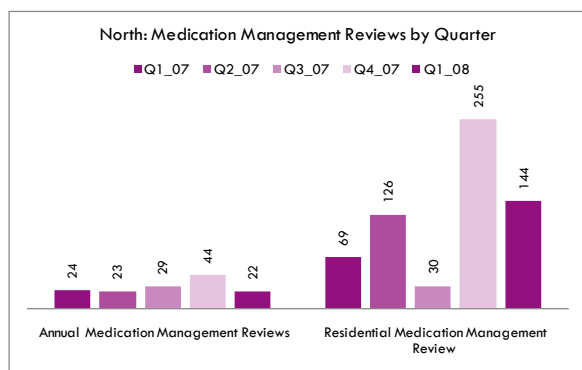
Quarter	0 to <4 months	4 to <12 months	12 to <18 months	18 to <48 months	48 to <84 months
Q1_07	96.9	87.8	86.7	94.4	91.2
Q2_07	96.5	89.2	85.0	94.0	91.0
Q3_07	97.7	88.1	85.2	94.1	90.6
Q4_07	97.5	90.2	86.0	93.7	90.7
Q1_08	93.3	81.7	79.4	93.3	90.5

Ranked nationally at 64, the North dropped 23 places in national ranking for overall immunisation coverage rates between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008.



## MEDICATION MANAGEMENT REVIEWS<sup>(3)</sup>

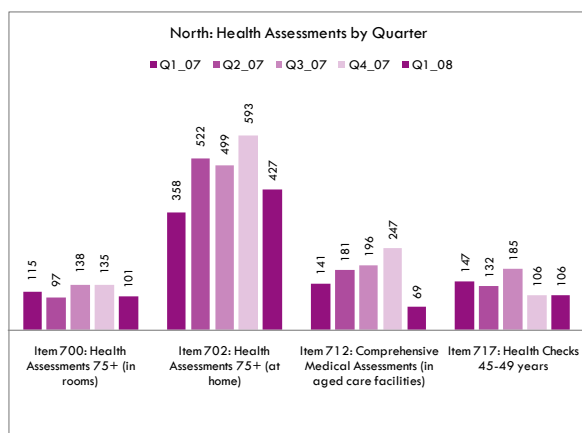
22 annual management reviews and 144 residential medical medication reviews were conducted in the March Quarter 2008 in the North. This represents a 50% decrease in annual management reviews and a 44% decrease in residential medication reviews when compared to the December Quarter 2007. When the March Quarters 2007 to 2008 are compared there is an overall decrease in annual medication management reviews and increase in residential medication reviews consistent with the statewide pattern.



## HEALTH ASSESSMENTS<sup>(3)</sup>

703 health assessments (MBS Items 700, 702, 712, 717) were conducted by GPs in the March Quarter of 2008 in the North.

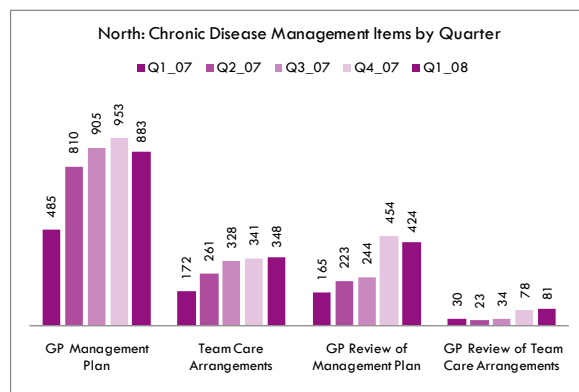
Item 702, *Health Assessments Aged 75+ years performed in the home* was the most frequently performed service. The total number of health assessment services fell between the December Quarter 2007 and March Quarter 2008, consistent with the overall Tasmanian trend. However in the North the number of health checks for 45-49 year olds remained stable.



In addition to the numbers of health checks shown above there were also health checks undertaken for refugees and other humanitarian entrants across the as well as for people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin and people with intellectual disabilities but this data is not reported due to the small numbers.

## CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT<sup>(3)</sup>

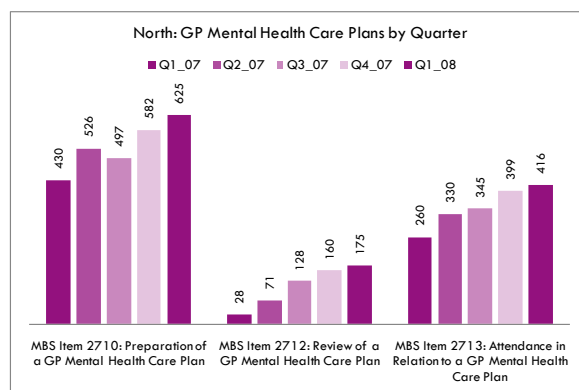
In the North the overall number of Care Plan services decreased slightly during the first Quarter of 2008 following a steady increase throughout 2007. The largest increase occurred in MBS Item 727, GP Review of Team Care Arrangements which rose by 170%, between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008. Statewide the overall number of care plans plateaued in the March Quarter 2008 following significant increases throughout 2007.



## MENTAL HEALTH CARE ITEMS<sup>(3)</sup>

1,216 mental health care plan services were provided by GPs in the North in the March Quarter 2008, a 7% increase from the December Quarter 2007. The largest increase (9%) was for Item 2712, Review of a GP Mental Health Care Plan.

Consistent with the statewide pattern, there was a substantial increase in all mental health care planning services between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008.



## UPTAKE OF NATIONAL INCENTIVES

### PRACTICE INCENTIVE PAYMENTS <sup>(3)</sup>

At the end of February 2008, 33 of the 46 practices in the North (72%) were approved as eligible for Practice Incentive Payments (PIP). This represents an increase from 70% of practices in 2007. The North has the highest rate of uptake reported PIP payments for After Hours Tier 3 and IM/IT tier 2 across the state.

Practice Incentive	2007	2008
After Hours Tier 1	97%	97%
After Hours Tier 2	94%	94%
After Hours Tier 3	47%	49%
Hosting medical students	44%	49%
Asthma sign on	97%	94%
Cervical Screening sign on	100%	97%
Diabetes sign on	100%	97%
Practice Nurses	84%	85%
IM/IT: Tier 1	91%	91%
IM/IT: Tier 2	91%	91%

PIP payments for asthma, cervical screening and diabetes sign on decreased slightly in the North between November 2007 and February 2008.

## SECTION FOUR: NORTH WEST TASMANIA

The following data indicates that pressure on primary care practitioners remains high in the North West. Consistently this region reports lower than average numbers of FTE GPs per population but the highest number of consultations per FTE GP. Further, GPs in this region practice on average more sessions per week than their colleagues statewide.

The North West also shows the highest number of services per practice nurse for the State in the March Quarter 2008, the highest rates of immunisation coverage and the highest uptake of PIP incentives for most categories.

### PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE

#### GENERAL PRACTITIONERS <sup>(2)</sup>

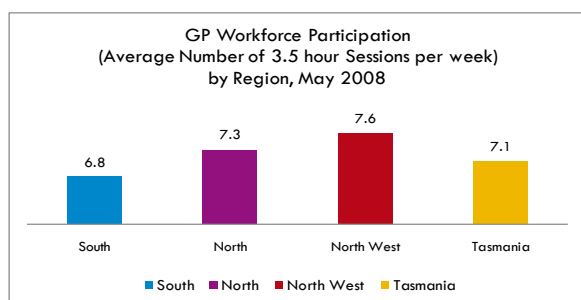
During GP Census week 2008, there were 104 GPs practicing in North West Tasmania and an estimated 78.7 full time equivalent (FTE) GPs. This is equivalent to 71.5 FTE GPs per 100,000 people – lower than both the state rate of 78.3 and the national rate of 74.5.

The number of practices in the North West increased from 27 in 2007 to 28 in 2008.

In the North West region, GPs practiced on average 7.6 sessions per week, the highest in the state but a slight decrease from the average 7.7 sessions practiced during 2007.

The mean age of GPs in the North West was 48.5 years, younger than the state average of 49.8 years.

The North West had a lower proportion of female GPs, 37% compared to the state rate of 43%.



#### GENERAL PRACTICE NURSES <sup>(2)</sup>

In May 2008, there were 46 practice nurses working in 19 practices in North West Tasmania. This represents an increase of three practice nurses for the region since 2007.

#### GENERAL PRACTICES <sup>(2)</sup>

In 2008, 12 practices (43%) in the North West report open books, 6 (21%) have closed books and 5 (18%) report some GPs taking new patients. Data are missing for the remaining five practices in the North West.

## THE NORTH WEST REGION

### AT A GLANCE:

- 28 general practices (as at May 2008).
- 104 general practitioners.
- 78.7 full-time equivalent GPs.
- 46 practice nurses.
- 19 practices with at least one practice nurse.

### KEY INDICATORS:

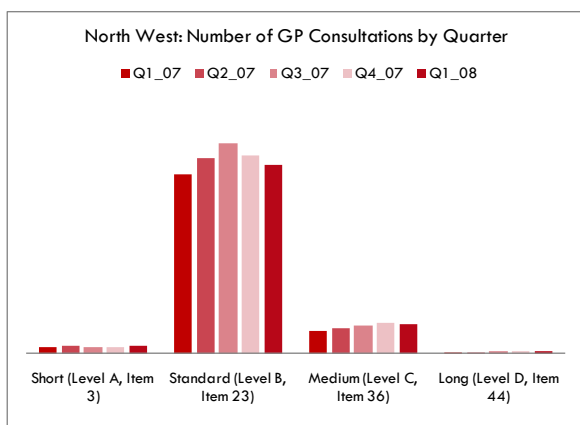
Compared with the rest of the state the North West region has:

- The lowest proportion of female GPs
- The highest number of consultations per FTE GP in the March Quarter 2008
- The highest average number of sessions worked per FTE GP
- The highest percentage of GPs working more than 8 sessions per week
- The youngest mean age for GPs
- The highest uptake of most Practice Incentive Program payments
- The highest rate of Category 2 emergency patients seen with in recommended timeframes
- The highest number of service per practice nurse for the March Quarter 2008
- The highest immunisation coverage rates in the state

## SERVICE UTILISATION

### GP CONSULTATIONS <sup>(3)</sup>

There were a total of 112,451 short, standard, medium and long consultations in the North West during the March Quarter 2008, an average of 1,429 Consultations per FTE GP. Between the December Quarter 2007 and the March Quarter 2008, there was a decrease in number of consults for items 44, 36 and 23 but an increase for Item 3.

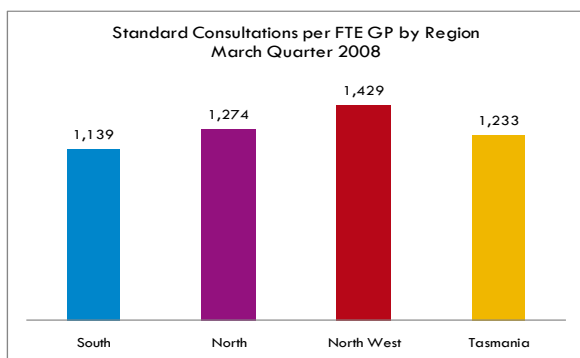


North West: GP Consultations by Quarter

Quarter	Short (Level A, Item 3)	Standard (Level B, Item 23)	Medium (Level C, Item 36)	Long (Level D, Item 44)
Q1_07	3,281	88,086	11,541	889
Q2_07	3,900	95,833	12,864	994
Q3_07	3,320	103,752	13,891	1,013
Q4_07	3,117	97,311	15,371	1,077
Q1_08	3,720	92,971	14,720	1,040

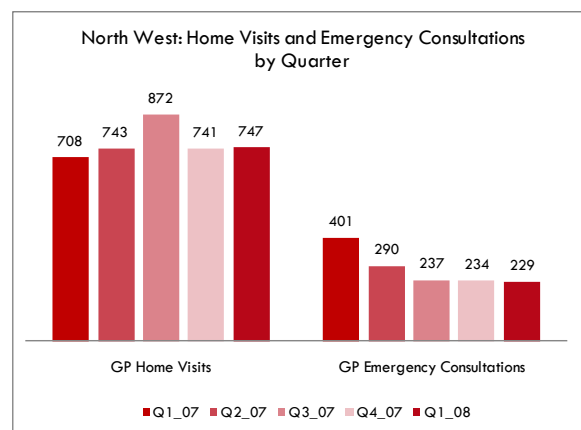
A comparison of the number of consultations between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008 shows an increase in the all types of consultations consistent with the overall Tasmanian picture. In the North West the largest change was in Level C consultations which increased by 27.5%, for this period.

The North West had the highest number of standard item consultations per FTE GP in the State for the March Quarter 2008.



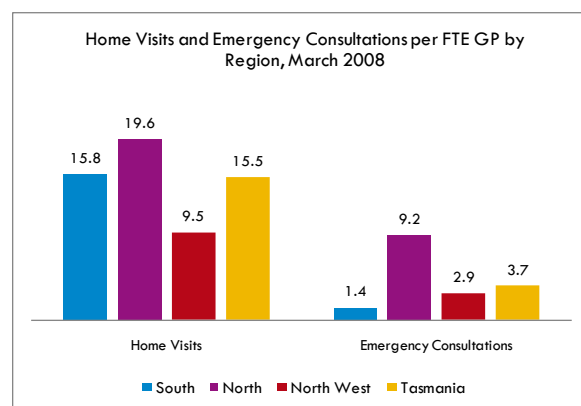
## HOME VISITS AND EMERGENCY CONSULTATIONS <sup>(3)</sup>

There were 747 home visits and 229 emergency consultations in the North West during the March Quarter of 2008, an average of 9.5 home visits and 2.9 emergency consultations per FTE GP.



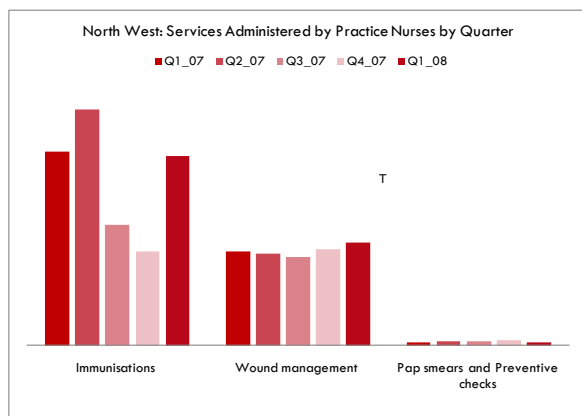
The number of home visits remained stable and emergency consultations fell slightly between the December Quarter 2007 and the March Quarter 2008. However consistent with the overall Tasmanian trend, between March Quarters 2007 and 2008 there was a slight increase in home visits and a significant decrease in GP emergency consultations.

The average number of home visits and emergency consultations per FTE GP was lower in the North West than the state average.



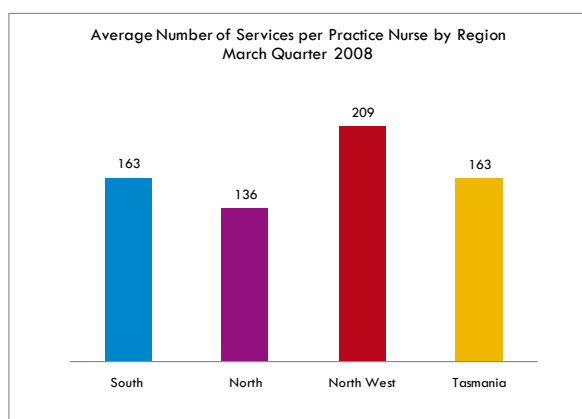
### SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY PRACTICE NURSES <sup>(3)</sup>

6,165 immunisations, 3,344 wound management services and 119 Pap smears and preventive health checks were performed by practice nurses in the North West during the March Quarter 2008.



Consistent with the overall Tasmanian pattern, the number of immunisations and wound management services provided by practice nurses continued to increase. However the number of pap smears and preventive health checks by practice nurses decreased between the December Quarter 2007 and the March Quarter 2008 in the North West contrary to the statewide trend.

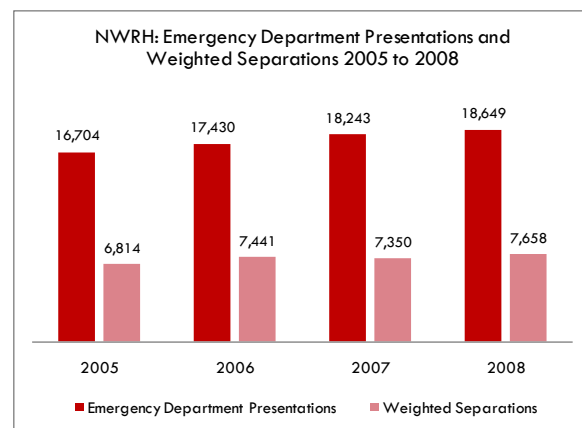
In the March Quarter 2008, the number of services per practice nurse in the North West region was highest in the state.



### PUBLIC HOSPITAL ACTIVITY <sup>(4)</sup>

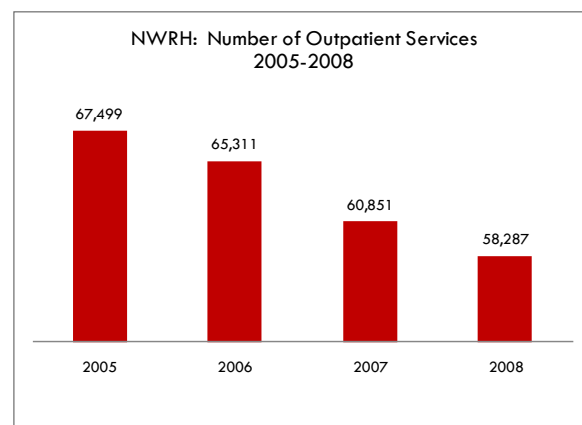
NOTE: All 2008 public hospital data are for the nine months ending March. All comparative data for 2007 are for the same nine month period.

There was a 12% increase in both weighted separations and emergency department presentations at the North West regional Hospital (NWRH) from 2005 to 2008. These increases were higher than those for the RHH but lower than the LGH.



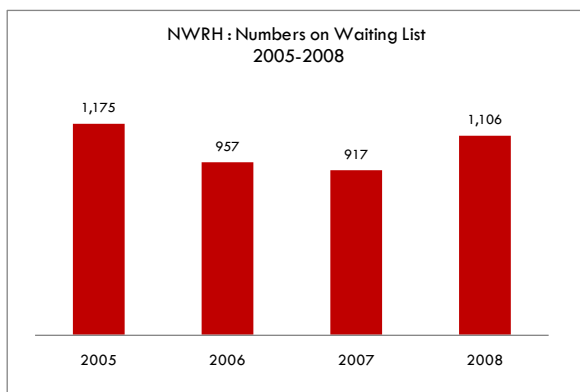
The NWRH Emergency Department had the highest rate of Category 2 patients seen within the recommended timeframe for the State. However the percentage had decreased slightly to 82.3% from 82.9% for the previous year which still exceeds the Australian average of 75%.

The volume of outpatient services at the NWRH decreased by 4.2 % between 2007 and 2008.



## PUBLIC HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS <sup>(4)</sup>

As at March 2008 there were 1,106 people on the waiting list for elective surgery at the NWRH representing a 21 % increase since 2007 and the highest increase across the state during the period. The NWRH had a median waiting time of 37 days as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, lower than the RHH but higher than the LGH.



From 2007 to 2008 the number of admissions from the elective surgery waiting list at the NWRH remained stable.

## DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

### IMMUNISATION COVERAGE <sup>(3)</sup>

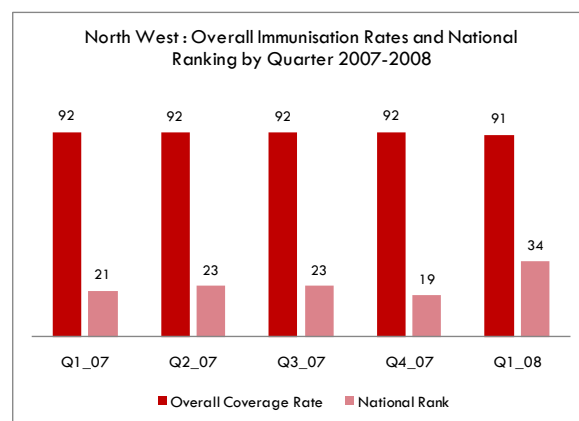
The North West recorded an overall immunisation coverage rate of 91% for the March Quarter 2008 and continues to be ranked first in the State.

In the March Quarter 2008, immunisation rates dropped for all age groups when compared to the December Quarter 2007. The greatest declines in the immunisation coverage rate occurred in the 18 to <48 months age group.

#### North West: % Immunisation Coverage Rates

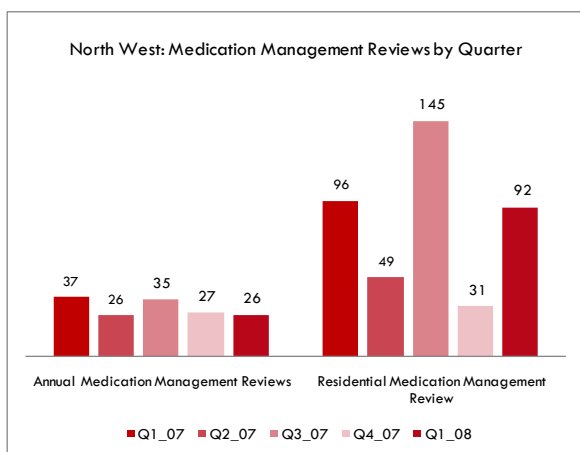
Quarter	0 to <4 months	4 to <12 months	12 to <18 months	18 to <48 months	48 to <84 months
Q1_07	92.3	97.2	92.3	84.1	94.8
Q2_07	92.0	96.6	90.8	84.5	94.5
Q3_07	92.0	96.6	90.8	84.5	94.5
Q4_07	92.3	97.1	90.5	87.4	94.4
Q1_08	91.0	96.8	85.2	80.1	94.2

The North West dropped 13 places in national ranking for overall immunisation coverage rates between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008.



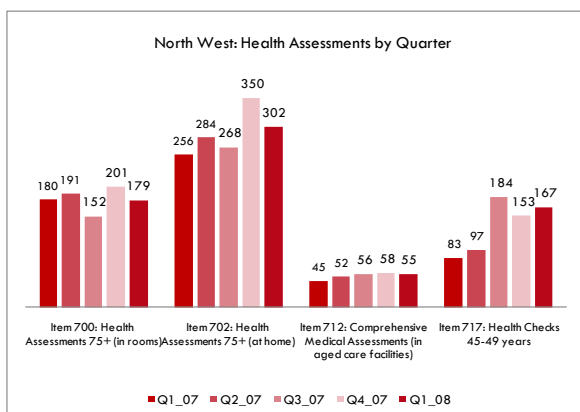
## MEDICATION MANAGEMENT REVIEWS<sup>(3)</sup>

26 annual management reviews and 92 residential medical medication reviews were conducted in the March Quarter 2008 in the North West. This represents a very small decrease in annual management reviews but a large increase in residential medication reviews when compared to the December Quarter 2007. When the March Quarters 2007 to 2008 are compared there is an overall decrease in annual medication management reviews consistent with the statewide pattern but residential medications reviews remain relatively stable.



## HEALTH ASSESSMENTS<sup>(3)</sup>

703 health assessments (MBS Items 700, 702, 712, 717) were conducted by GPs in the March Quarter of 2008 in the North West. Item 702, Health Assessments aged 75+ years performed in the home was the most frequently performed service. The total number of health assessment services fell slightly between the December Quarter 2007 and March Quarter 2008, consistent with the overall Tasmanian position. However the number of health checks for 45-49 year olds rose slightly.

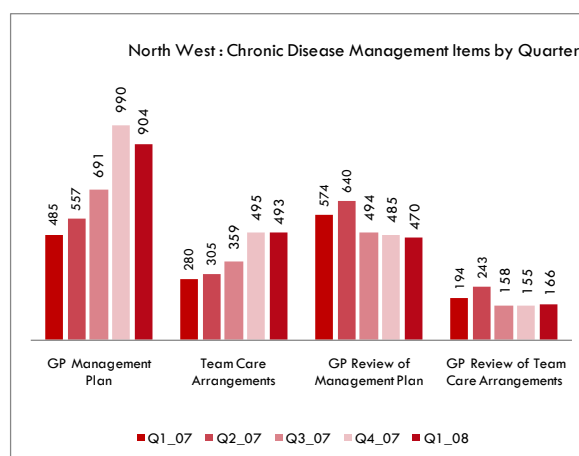


In addition to the numbers of health checks shown above there were also health checks undertaken for refugees and other humanitarian entrants across the as well as for people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin and people with

intellectual disabilities but this data is not reported due to the small numbers.

## CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT<sup>(3)</sup>

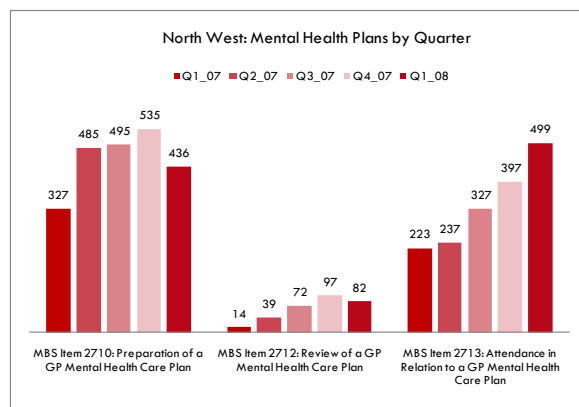
In the North West the number of Care Plan services decreased slightly during the first Quarter of 2008 following a steady increase throughout 2007. The largest increase occurred in MBS Item 721, GP Management Plan which rose by 86%, between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008. Statewide the overall number of care plans plateaued in the March Quarter 2008 following significant increases throughout 2007.



## MENTAL HEALTH CARE ITEMS<sup>(3)</sup>

1017 mental health care plan services were provided by GPs in the North West in the March Quarter 2008, a slight decline in numbers from the December Quarter 2007. The largest decrease (19%) was for Item 2710, Preparation of a GP Mental Health Care Plan while Item 2713; Attendance in Relation to a GP Mental Health Care Plan increased by 26%.

However, consistent with the statewide pattern, there was a substantial increase in all mental health care planning services between the March Quarters 2007 and 2008.



## UPTAKE OF NATIONAL INITIATIVES

### PRACTICE INCENTIVE PAYMENTS <sup>(3)</sup>

At the end of February 2008, 21 of the 28 practices in the North West (75%) were approved as eligible for Practice Incentive Payments (PIP). This represents a decrease from 78% of practices in 2007. The North West continues to have the highest rate of uptake for all reported PIP payments with the exception of AH Tier 3 and IM/IT Tier 1 and 2 payments.

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Practice Incentive	2007	2008
After Hours Tier 1	100%	100%
After Hours Tier 2	90%	95%
After Hours Tier 3	43%	48%
Hosting medical students	95%	71%
Asthma sign on	95%	95%
Cervical Screening sign on	100%	100%
Diabetes sign on	100%	100%
Practice Nurses	90%	91%
IM/IT: Tier 1	81%	81%
IM/IT: Tier 2	81%	81%

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## REFERENCES AND DATA SOURCES

[1] Australia Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue 3218.0 Regional Population Growth. Available from: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS>

[2] General Practice Tasmania, Results of the Census of Tasmanian General Practitioners 2007 and 2008, ISSN 1835-274X available at: [www.gptasmania.com.au](http://www.gptasmania.com.au)

[3] Medicare Australia Statistics, Reports on MBS Item numbers by Division of General Practice. Available at: [https://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/statistics/dyn\\_mbs/forms/mbs\\_tab4.shtml](https://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/statistics/dyn_mbs/forms/mbs_tab4.shtml)

[4] Department of Health and Human Services Progress Chart May 2008. Available at: [www.dhhs.tas.gov.au](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au)