

The development of a paediatric trauma system in a tertiary paediatric hospital in Brisbane metropolitan area

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Background: Trauma is the leading cause of death and disability in the first 4 decades of life, it accounts for approximately 50% of all childhood deaths and 75% of adolescent deaths (AIHW 2003). The paediatric environment presents many challenges in the development and consolidation of a trauma service, predominantly due critical mass. The Paediatric Trauma Service was originally established in 2008 in the Royal Children's Hospital, in preparation for the newly opened Lady Cilento Children's Hospital in South Brisbane. The aim of the paediatric trauma service is to be verified as a level 1 Major Trauma Centre with responsibility for all paediatric trauma patients from throughout Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Aim: To develop a reliable and sustainable Paediatric Trauma Service capable of meeting the needs of severely injured children in Queensland.

Method: This presentation will provide an overview of the innovative Paediatric Trauma Service in Lady Cilento Children's hospital, the challenges and the opportunities. It will address six priority areas that have enhanced acute trauma care to paediatric patients in Queensland, namely;

- Injury prevention
- Clinical services
- Education
- Research and data collection
- Quality activities
- Networking and administration.

Discussion: The Paediatric Trauma Service provides a consultancy service to all trauma patients admitted for more than 24 hours and their families, and provides a liaison service between the multidisciplinary teams and the allied health professionals. It coordinates the care of approximately 1000 trauma admissions (of greater than 24 hours) each year in the tertiary paediatric hospital in Queensland. The Paediatric Trauma Service takes a leadership role in trauma prevention, education, data collection and research.

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