



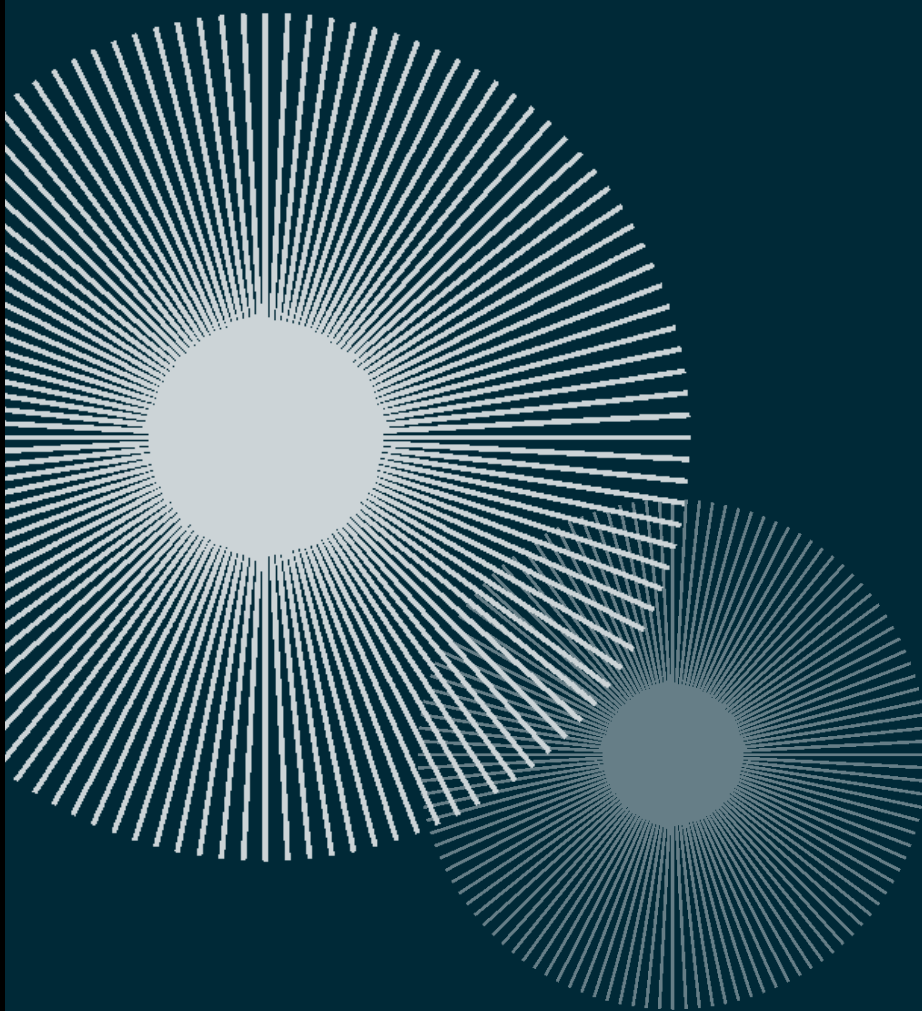
Commonwealth Department of  
Health and  
Aged Care

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION  
HOSPITALS PROGRAM

Phase 3

**HEALTH SERVICE  
RESEARCH REPORTS**

NDHP3







COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE



Commonwealth Department of  
Health and  
Aged Care

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION  
HOSPITALS PROGRAM

Phase 3

# HEALTH SERVICE RESEARCH REPORTS



NDHP3



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Other publications in the NDHP<sub>3</sub> report series are:

- \* *A qualitative review of NDHP<sub>3</sub>*
- \* *A resource for integrating health services*
- \* *Measuring the impact – a sample of project results*

Enhancement project abstracts at [www.archi.net.au](http://www.archi.net.au)

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# Foreword

I am pleased to introduce this report, which is one of a package of four publications, which make up the National Demonstration Hospitals Program Phase 3 (NDHP3) Report Series.

Over a six year period the Commonwealth has provided funding of \$25 million through the National Demonstration Hospitals Program (NDHP) to identify, develop and promote best practice in hospital service delivery and to develop improved linkages between hospitals and primary and community care. Sixty nine hospitals, that is nearly half of Australian public hospitals with more than 100 beds, have participated in this Program.

The NDHP has achieved significant results that impact on the way hospitals conduct their business and on outcomes for people requiring hospital services. A wide variety of improvements to elective surgery management, integrated bed management strategies and the integration of services between hospitals and related health services have been demonstrated during the course of NDHP.

It is of course important that good ideas and successful projects are not kept a secret! A key feature of NDHP is its emphasis on the dissemination of the information arising from Program activities. Through a range of seminars and conferences, web-based information services, national networking activities and newsletters and reports, hospitals and health services are actively encouraged and enabled to learn about and put in place improved practices.

The particular focus of NDHP3 has been the integration of health services. Service users, service providers, funders and regulatory agencies acknowledge the importance of an integrated approach to health service provision. An integrated approach helps to ensure the best possible service for patients, the optimal use of resources and greater levels of satisfaction for health service providers. Through NDHP3 the Commonwealth has enabled hospitals to identify innovative integration practices, to further develop these practices and to support their establishment in other hospitals.

I expect that we will see wide ranging and long term effects from this and earlier phases of the NDHP and I share in the satisfaction of the people whose initiative and efforts have led to the successful outcomes achieved through NDHP3.

A S Podger  
*Secretary*

The goal of the National Demonstration Hospitals Program Phase 3 (NDHP<sub>3</sub>) was to integrate services delivered by the acute care sector, including developing links with the primary and community health care sectors.

The NDHP<sub>3</sub> approach to integration involved hospitals and the primary and community service sectors working together to establish and document systems that provided a smooth transition across sector boundaries. This resulted in improved patient care, support for carers, better health outcomes, and optimal resource use.

Eighty-five per cent of hospitals that participated in NDHP<sub>3</sub> confirmed that integration initiatives implemented during the program would be sustained.