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January 10, 2005

ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO IMPROVE PATIENT SAFETY

The Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care today announced one million dollars in grants for 50 innovative projects across Australia to address patient safety and quality issues.

Safety and Quality Council Chair, Professor Bruce Barraclough, said staff and consumers involved could be proud of their innovative projects which would enhance the safety and quality in health care at a grass roots level.

“The applicants provided practical and innovative approaches in addressing an existing safety and quality issue within their particular health care setting,” Professor Barraclough said.

The funding, awarded to successful applicants under the Council’s Safety Innovations in Practice (SIIP) Mark III program, aims to make local improvements to the safety and quality of health care.

The 50 successful applicants from various health care settings were selected from over 200 applications received nationally. The projects address one of five safety and quality theme areas: engaging consumers; using existing data and measurement to improve safe practice; safe staffing; health care associated infection; and building on projects funded in previous years.

Examples of the successful applications include funding to; develop best practice guidelines for the management of central venous devices in children; establish processes to better identify adverse post-operative outcomes; and develop an education and training program to improve consumer self management of oral anticoagulation medications.

The Safety Innovations in Practice (SIIP) program was developed by the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care to encourage innovation within the health sector and create demonstrated improvements in patient safety.

The Council leads national efforts to improve the safety and quality of health care in Australia. Established in January 2000, the Council is jointly funded by the Australian Government and State and Territory Governments.

For more information on the SIIP Program, go to the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care website at www.safetyandquality.org or contact the Council on (02) 6289 4244.

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Media Release