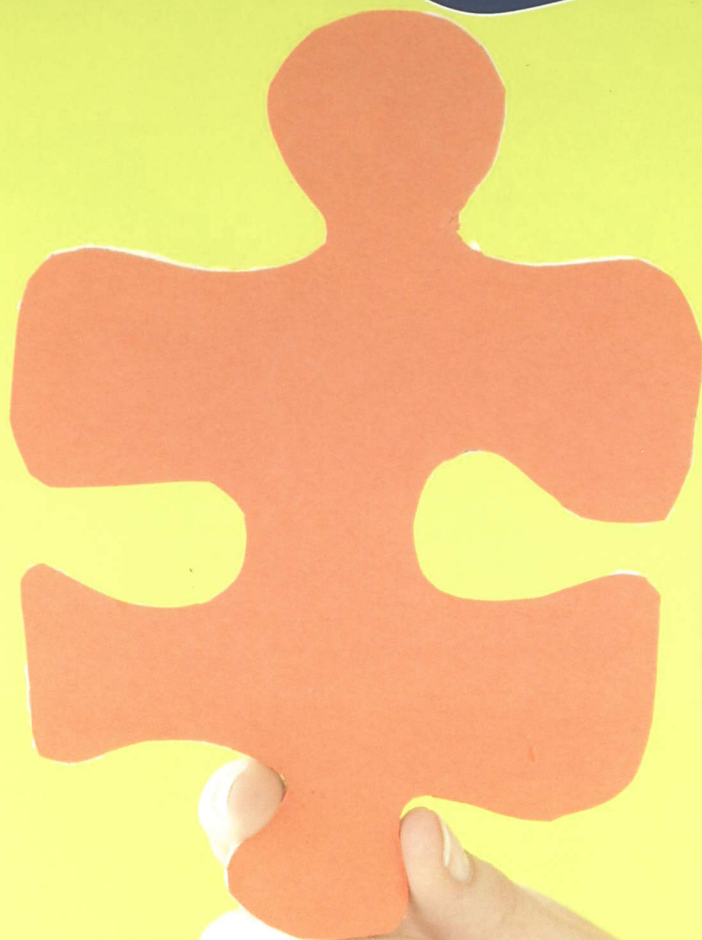


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Beattie's new way forward

We take a look at the *Queensland Statewide Health Services Plan 2007-2012*

Mental health under siege

Shocking reports on services throughout the State continue to emerge



Fatigue management

Residents and Registrars ensure their voices are heard on the issue

The threat of task substitution

AMA Queensland sets up a new working party to investigate

Scalpel injuries a thing of the past

Scalpel injury in hospitals is expected to soon be a problem of the past thanks to the release of a world-first, single-handed scalpel blade remover which was launched in Brisbane recently.

The product, billed as a world-first, is known as the Qlicksmart CASSETTE 3in1 and is the combined effort of Dr Neville Henry AM, a retired emergency physician, and Prodesign, one of Australia's leading designing firms.

Development of the Qlicksmart CASSETTE 3in1 was driven by a desire to lower the risk of infection for doctors, nurses, and patients – with scalpel injuries rating amongst the top five common types of sharps injuries, second only to needle-sticks.

It was invented with the aim to protect nurses, the highest risk market for sustaining sharps injuries, (43.5%) in an environment that has a high risk of bloodborne infections – the operating theatre.

Preventing the occurrences of possible infection is a more preferable alternative to the costly diagnosis and treatment once it has already occurred.

The product complies with internationally recognised Australian Standards, as well as the Australian Infection Control Guidelines and Australian College of Operating Room Nurses (ACORN) standards of practice.

Qlicksmart CASSETTE 3in1 requires only one hand to activate and the blades are safely removed and contained in transparent casing for ease of counting.

Used by trained theatre staff in support of a surgeon in any surgical procedure, the CASSETTE 3in1 is placed in a ready position on the Meyer Table adjacent to the patient being operated upon. When a blade is no longer required, the theatre assistant inserts the scalpel - blade first - into one of the three cartridges and pushes down until a distinct CLICK is heard and felt - signifying the blade is safe. The handle can now be removed. Each of the three cartridges can be used in this



way. At the end of the operation, the cassette can be folded shut and disposed of safely and efficiently.

Qlicksmart CASSETTE 3in1 was officially launched at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital on Wednesday 28 March.

"Six years of blood, sweat and tears, and over \$3 million has produced nothing less than a revolution in surgical safety," Dr Michael

Sinnott, Managing Director of Qlicksmart, said at the launch.

The CASSETTE 3in1 has already been short-listed for a prestigious international design award by INDEX.