

# Centre for Health Economics

## Seminar Series

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### ‘Economics and Patient Safety in Australian Hospitals’

Presented by

#### **A/Prof Terri Jackson**

**Date:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007  
**Time:** 1:00-2:00pm  
**Venue:** RB Scotton Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Building 75  
Monash University  
Clayton, 3800



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The landmark 1995 Quality in Australian Health Care (QAHCS) study estimated that adverse events in hospital care occur in more than 16% of admissions. This seminar reports on work underway at the Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health (ACERH) at the University of Queensland to develop tools for understanding the human and economic impact of adverse events in hospital care. Dr Terri Jackson and her colleagues have devised ways of distinguishing adverse events from co-morbidities in routine hospital discharge data. This has allowed the identification of hospital-acquired illness in elective surgery cases, and costs and adverse event rates for cardiac surgery. On-going research is focussed on downstream outcomes and care costs for common serious adverse events, costs of readmissions, and costs of ward-based adverse events, spinal injury complications and complications in patients with nutritional compromise. Over all, the research suggests that one or more adverse events adds 10 days to the average hospital stay, costs nearly \$7,000 more (controlling for casemix, age and co-morbidity), and adds 18.2% to hospital expenditures. The QAHCS found that only 40% of such events are preventable with current knowledge. Programs to achieve this level of prevention could be funded from the estimated \$800 mil pa nationally that could be saved by avoiding the costs of inpatient adverse events.

#### **Presenter**

Dr Terri Jackson is an Associate Professor with the Australian Centre for Economics Research on Health (ACERH) at the University of Queensland. Her major research interests focus on issues of technical efficiency in the provision of hospital-based care and in funding systems which make use of casemix adjustment. She is currently undertaking studies of the costs and outcomes of adverse events in hospital care.

**VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME.** The Seminar Series is free of charge. For confirmation of your attendance and further information please telephone 9905 0733 or email [che@buseco.monash.edu.au](mailto:che@buseco.monash.edu.au)