

## Ms Christine Gee - ACHS Medallist 2021

Christine Gee's contribution to safety and quality in Australian health care, with a particular focus on the private sector is impressive.

Christine has not only had a direct impact as a leader but has also committed time, energy and her intellect to promoting safety and quality in healthcare on a national level over 25 years.

Her contributions have been felt across the entire health system with national leadership positions including:

- Member - Australian Council on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (forerunner to the ACSQHC)
- Commissioner and Board member of the ACSQHC since its inception, and
- ACHS Councillor.

Along with numerous positions as Chair on Committees of or Advisory Groups, she was President of Australian Private Hospitals Association (twice) and Chair of the APHA Safety and Quality Taskforce.

As Chair of the Private Hospitals Health Industry Safety and Quality Committee (PHISQC)(prior to the establishment of the ACSQHC) Christine led the development of the "Private Sector Quality Criteria", which were subsequently subsumed into existing accreditation standards.

In this role she also oversaw a successful national trial of Drug Use Indicators in private hospitals and day facilities.

Following the establishment of the ACSQHC, Christine successfully advocated for the creation of the Private Hospital Sector Committee (PHSC), providing a bridge between the Commission and the private sector, and ensuring its work in standards development has been fit-for-purpose.

Christine was responsible for ensuring the alignment of the NSQHS Standards with the National Standards for Mental Health Services and helped develop standards regarding recognition and response to mental health deterioration in acute care settings.

She has been a strong advocate of private hospitals leading the way in the adoption of safety and quality practices, advocating for amendments to the APHA Constitution to make accreditation a condition of membership, years before it become mandatory.

Christine's personal philosophy has always put patients at the centre of care and this is reflected in her work. Congratulations Christine on your many achievements and being the deserving winner of the ACHS Medal 2021.